DANCE TILL TOMORROW
ACT TWELVE PAYBACK TIME
Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO
Translation by LILLIAN OLSEN
English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS
THE STORY, THUS FAR...
College student Suekichi will inherit $4.5 million if he graduates. But he much prefers his work as the producer of an avant-garde theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader, Ms. Shimomura. At the same time, Suekichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Ayu, even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.
After the troupe's final performance, Suekichi got so drunk at the cast party that he declared his undying love for Ms. Shimomura and passed out on her bed.
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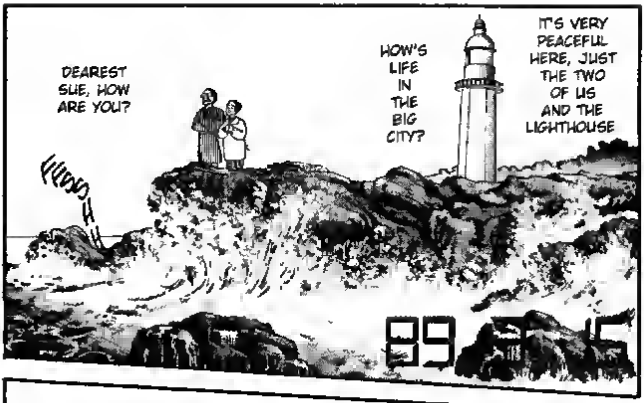
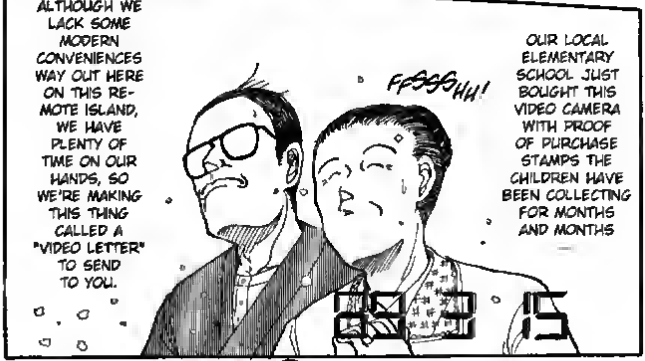

DEAREST SUE, HOW ARE YOU?
HOW'S LIFE IN THE BIG CITY?
IT'S VERY PEACEFUL HERE, JUST THE TWO OF US AND THE LIGHTHOUSE
SHAAAA!!!


ALTHOUGH WE LACK SOME MODERN CONVENIENCES WAY OUT HERE ON THIS REMOTE ISLAND, WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME ON OUR HANDS, SO WE'RE MAKING THIS THING CALLED A "VIDEO LETTER" TO SEND TO YOU.
FFSSSHH!
OUR LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL JUST BOUGHT THIS VIDEO CAMERA WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE STAMPS THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN COLLECTING FOR MONTHS AND MONTHS

BWIP!
IN THIS SCENE, MR. UOYAMA FROM THE FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION --

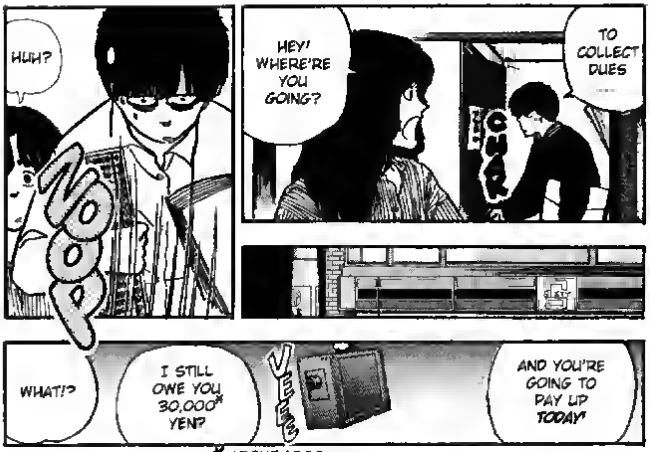
WHY'D YOU TURN IT OFF? IT'S A LETTER FROM YOUR FAMILY!
... CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE

YOUR PARENTS ARE KINDA DIFFERENT, HUH? SENDING A VIDEO LETTER
ARE YOU GOING HOME FOR SPRING BREAK?
CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE
IT'S A LETTER FROM MY FAMILY!
NO, I'M GONNA LEFT IT HERE SO I

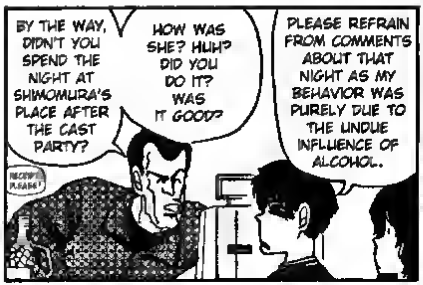
OH YEAH
YOU'RE TOO BUSY AND TOO BROKE TO GO ANY-WHERE
AAARGH! IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH !!

.....
NGGH

CHEER UP, I'M HERE! SO DON'T BE MAKING FACES AT NUMBERS ALL NIGHT, OKAY!?
LIVE A LITTLE, WHY DON'TCHA?
TAK TAK TAK


HUH?
NOP
HEY! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
TO COLLECT DUES
CLICK
WHAT!?
I STILL OWE YOU 30,000* YEN?
VEEEE
AND YOU'RE GOING TO PAY UP TODAY!
*ABOUT $300
YEEEE-
MAY I HAVE A RECEIPT?
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, COMING HERE TO ASK FOR MONEY WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF LOAN SHARK?
WORK IS THE ONLY PLACE I CAN FIND YOU! HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO KEEP TRACK OF WHICH WOMAN'S HOUSE YOU'RE SLEEPING AT!?
HI-YA!
WHERE- OH- WHERE HAS OUR SWEET LITTLE SUEKICHI GONE?
BETTER TO BE AN OGRE THAN HAVE OUR TROUPE SHUT DOWN BECAUSE WE CAN'T PAY OUR BILLS

PULP


BY THE WAY, DIDN'T YOU SPEND THE NIGHT AT SHIMOMURA'S PLACE AFTER THE CAST PARTY?
HOW WAS SHE? HUH? DID YOU DO IT? WAS IT GOOD?
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM COMMENTS ABOUT THAT NIGHT AS MY BEHAVIOR WAS PURELY DUE TO THE UNDUE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL.
RECEIPT, PLEASE!

I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY RIGHT NOW.
SO CHILL OUT!

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM? D'YOU SEE THE WAY HE'S LOOKIN' AT US?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A WHILE, BUT HE'S BEEN LIKE THAT ALL DAY...SEEMS HE ISN'T GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP.
I'M GOING NUTS BECAUSE NOBODY'S PAYING ME ON TIME!!
I SAID I WANT A RECEIPT!

SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A LOT IN HERE.
HEY !!
LUN
KLINK
CHINK
KLINK
MY RECEIPT!

OKAY, NEXT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NEXT"? IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING!
THIS IS THE BEST TIME TO FIND EVERYONE
WHO ASKED YOU TO COME ALONG, ANYWAY?
HEY ..WHAT MR. IKEZU SAID ABOUT YOU AND MS. SHIMOMURA JUST NOW... IS THAT TRUE?
NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS?
2:47 AND 30 SECONDS, 32 SECONDS, 33 SECONDS...
I'M COLLECTING DUES.
I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY REALLY!
KLINK
CHINK
THAT'LL BARELY MAKE A DENT IN WHAT YOU OWE MR. TANIYAMA
MAYBE THEY REALLY AREN'T HOME?
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
THEY'RE HERE, THEY'RE HERE, THEY'RE HERE, HERE, HERE!

UMM
HEY!
HEY!
HEY!

UMM, ISN'T THIS STEALING?
HE'S THE GUILTY ONE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T PAY!

OKAY, NEXT
GEEZ
IT'S MORNING ALREADY
NOT EVEN HALF MY GOAL
HOW COME YOU'RE STILL SO CHIPPER, SUEKICHI? YAAWN!

EH ?

ZZZZZ
HEY! YOU'RE SLEEP-WALKING!

GO KNOCK
BUMP! BUMP! BUMP!
WHAT A PAIN ...

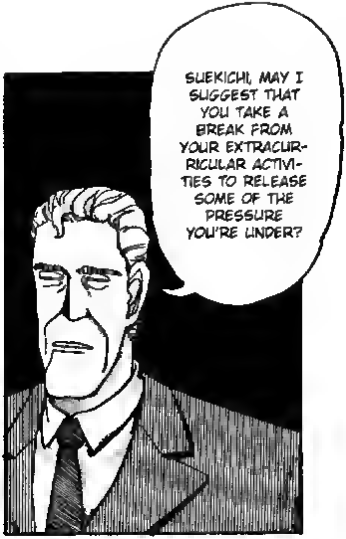
WHA ...?
ARE YOU AWAKE NOW?

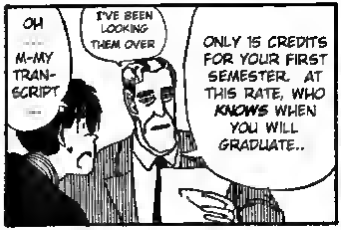
OH ... 'S THREE IN TH' AFTER--
YOU APPEAR TO BE IN A PITIFUL STATE ...

I'M FINE .. REALLY. I JUST TIRE EASILY...
THESE ACCOUNTS ...
I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF INSPECTING THEM...

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE AN EXPERT AT THIS KIND OF THING!
IT SEEMS YOU'RE UNDER A LOT OF PRES-SURE...

WELL, THEATER ISN'T EXACTLY A BIG MONEY MAKER...
ACTU-ALLY, I MEANT YOUR SCHOOL-ING.


SUEKICHI, MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU TAKE A BREAK FROM YOUR EXTRACUR-RICULAR ACTIVI-TIES TO RELEASE SOME OF THE PRESSURE YOU'RE UNDER?


OH... M-MY TRAN-SCRIPT...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING THEM OVER
ONLY 15 CREDITS FOR YOUR FIRST SEMESTER. AT THIS RATE, WHO KNOWS WHEN YOU WILL GRADUATE..

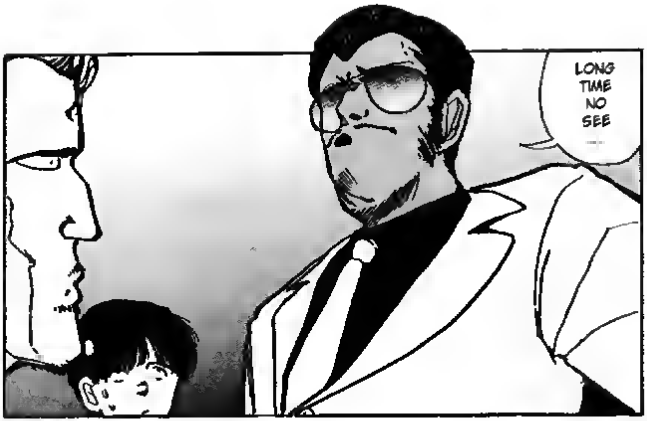
IT'S WELL AND FINE FOR YOU TO HAVE A HOBBY, BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, YOUR INHERITANCE MIGHT SLIP FROM YOUR GRASP RIGHT BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES
.....

I'LL BE FINE. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T THOUGHT THIS THROUGH...
WELL, I'VE GOTTA GET GOING...

MONDE
I'M, REALLY REALLY SORRY. I PROMISE I'LL GET THE PREVIOUS PAYMENT TO YOU IN TWO OR THREE DAYS
WELL, I GUESS I CAN FUDGE THINGS WITH THE OWNER FOR NOW...SO YOUR COMPANY ISN'T DOING TOO WELL, HUH?
YOU'VE GOT FULL HOUSES, BUT MS SHIMOMURA SPENDS A LOT ON SETS, DOESN'T SHE?
SIGH...
LONG TIME NO SEE...

OH, UH, ER. H-HOW ARE YOU?
I ENJOYED YOUR FINAL PERFOR-MANCE
SINCE WE LAST MET.
W-WHAT A COINCIDENCE, US MEETING HERE AND ALL, HUH?
THE THEATER IS IN 2F AND OUR OFFICE IS IN 3F.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S NOT A COINCIDENCE AT ALL, IS IT?
AHH HA-HA HA!
SO .. UM
BUSY ?
UH, YES, ACTU-ALLY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
W-WELL, I'M, UM, TRYING TO MEET A D-DEADLINE. I MEAN, UM, I'M SORT OF COLLECTING P-PAYMENTS
GULP!
I SEE
YOU KNOW, AT THE MOMENT, I HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO KILL..

SOME-ONE'S AT THE DOOR
WELL, GO SEE WHO IT IS THEN
NOK! NOK!
THIS IS YOUR PLACE!
OH, YEAH, RIGHT ...
SHEESH, PROBA-BLY SELLING NEWSPAPERS OR SOME RELIGIOUS
GA-K!
YO
WHADDYA MEAN, "YO"? I PAID YOU YESTERDAY
NOT ALL OF IT.
"NOT ALL OF IT"? WHAT ABOUT THOSE GUYS WHO HAVEN'T PAID ANYTHING YET, LIKE KADOMATSU? GO HASSLE THEM FIRST!
ACTUALLY, I'VE COL-LECTED MOST OF IT.— YOU'RE THE LAST.
AND I WAS JUST BASKING IN THE AFTERGLOW
BULL!! ALL THOSE GUYS WHO KEEP PRETENDING THEY'RE BROKE?


LONG TIME NO SEE

W-WHAT'S HE DOING HERE!?
I RAN INTO HIM AND HE DECIDED TO TAG ALONG. SAID HE HAD A LITTLE TIME TO KILL.

STILL GIVING YOU TROUBLE ?

UH, HOW MUCH DID YOU SAY I OWE?
UM, 10,200* YEN
R-REALLY? IS THAT ALL?

* ABOUT $120

TH-THANK YOU FOR COMING WITH ME
SO BASICALLY, EXACTING PAYMENT IS A BATTLE OF WILLS. IT'S OVER THE MOMENT YOUR EYES MEET.

HOW'S THAT GIRL DOING?
HUH?

OH, YOU MEAN AYA?
YOU KNOW THE LONG-HAIRED, SPUNKY KID.
SH-SHE'S ALL RIGHT

N-NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
SHE YOUR WOMAN?

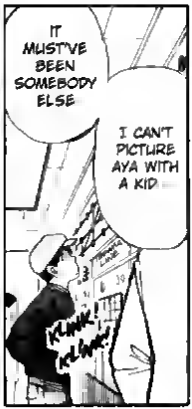
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? THEATER DOESN'T BRING IN THE DOUGH?
Y-YES, THAT'S RIGHT...
SO ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE ALMOST NOTHING, YOU'RE THE KIND OF MAN WHO'S WILLING TO BET IT ALL ON WHAT YOU LOVE, ON THE THEATER!!
W-WELL, YES, KIND OF!!
SOMETIMES I LOSE MY PERSPECTIVE...
BUT WHEN I SEE POOR SLOBS LIKE YOU MAKING THREE OR FOUR LESS ZEROS THAN WE ARE, HUSTLING JUST TO SURVIVE...
YEAH, WHATEVER THANKS FOR EVERYTHING
SHEEZ, TAKING UP ALL THE BIG BALLOONS
WHAT DO YOU THINK? PRETTY PHILO-SOPHICAL, HUH?
I'VE GOT A REP AS A WELL-READ RENAISSANCE MAN
R-RIGHT.

LATELY I'VE BEEN READING STUFF LIKE DELANEY

HUH !?
OH, UH, EXCUSE ME

WHAT'S WITH YOU?
I J-JUST THOUGHT I SAW S-SOMEONE I KNOW

NO, NO, THIS IS FINE, THANKS. UH... THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TODAY...


IT MUST'VE BEEN SOMEBODY ELSE
I CAN'T PICTURE AYA WITH A KID...
KLUNK! KLUNK!

MAN, AM I BEAT!
SIGH!

A KEY?

YOU CAN RETURN THE KEY ANYTIME.

FROM THAT NIGHT AT MS. SHIMOMURA'S

TO BE CONTINUED!

ACT FOURTEEN WHO'S THAT GIRL?

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...ith the ...unsel and help from a yakuza neighbor, Suekich has managed to collect some ...his fellow troupe members, but the troupe is still in dire financial straits.

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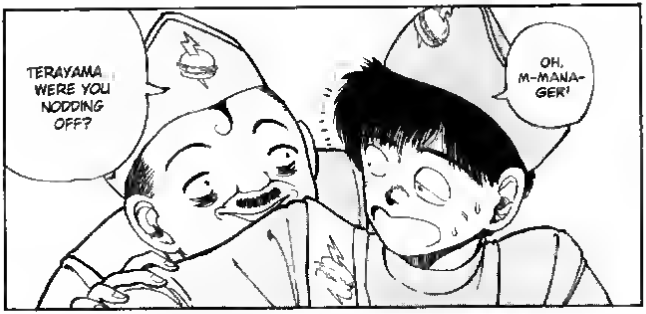
YOU SCREWED UP ANOTHER ORDER, TERAYAMA.
OOPS! I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY! I'LL REDO IT RIGHT AWAY.
THUNDER BURGER
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GONNA HAFTA DO IT OVER, STUPID!?
I-I'M SORRY.
PHEW
THUNDER BURGER
NOO
NOO
NOO



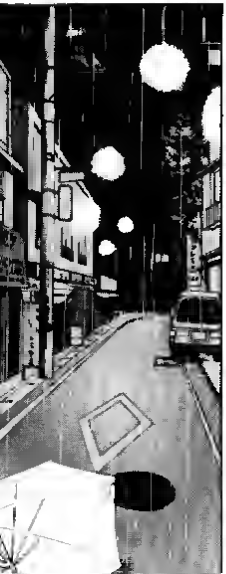
YOU WERE NODDING OFF, WEREN'T YOU?
UH, NO, NOT REALLY.
OH, I THINK YOU WERE! AM I RIGHT OR AM I RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY I UNDERSTAND. IT'S TOUGH HAVING TO WORK FOR A LIVING.
UH-HUH
BUT NEVER MIND ALL THAT...
CHECK OUT MY LATEST CULINARY ACHIEVEMENT!

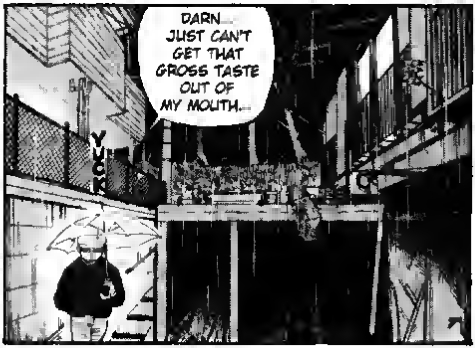
WHAT IS THIS?
A "NATTO-BURGER."*
WE STARTED OUT AS A TOFU JOINT, REMEMBER? SO I'VE BEEN THINKING -; WHY TOSS OUT ALL THAT TRADITIONAL CUISINE?
DON'T BE SHY!

* Natto: fermented soy beans oft described by the uninitiated as "rotten beans in mucus

GO ON-- TRY IT!
SQUISH

GAHH!

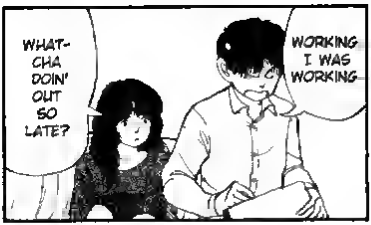



DARN... JUST CAN'T GET THAT GROSS TASTE OUT OF MY MOUTH...
YUCK

CHAK
HUH ?

WHA...?

HIYA. W'LCOME HOME.
YAWWN...
CRAWLED IN THROUGH THE WINDOW AGAIN, HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU, A CAT?


WHAT-CHA DOIN' OUT SO LATE?
WORKING I WAS WORKING

YOU GOT A JOB!?
WE CAN'T ALL BE USELESS DRUNKS.

OH, CAN YOU TELL?
YOU REEK.
MY PLACE ISN'T A DRUNK TANK FOR SOBERING UP, YOU KNOW
OH, YOU GOT IT A-A-ALL WRONG! I JUST CAME TO SEE MY L'IL SUEKICHI!
LIFE IN THE BIG CITY IS SO LONELY! AREN'T YOU JUST DYIN' FOR SOME COMPANY?
STAY AWAY FROM ME, YOU.. YOU LUSH
NOT GOIN' TO SLEEP?
NO GOTTA ORGANIZE MY WORK SCHEDULE FIRST.
WAKE UP!!
SWAP
HEY!!
SOUNDS ROUGH.
'Nap'.
ZZZzzz
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN OVER-DOING IT A LITTLE BIT LATELY?
NAH ..

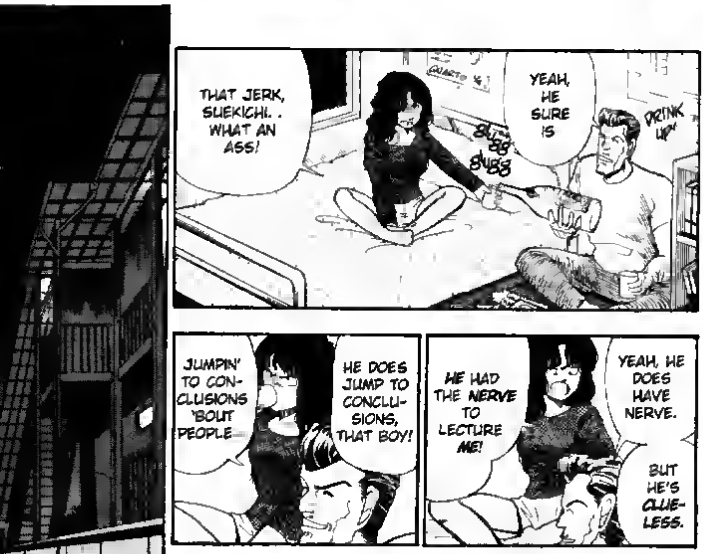
I'M SERIOUS WHAT WITH THE THEATER AND YOUR JOB AND ALL. PLUS, YOU'RE ON SPRING BREAK.
YOU OUGHTTA TAKE IT EASY FOR A FEW DAYS. YOU WORK TOO HARD. WHAT'S THE POINT?
BESIDES, AREN'T YOU HAVING PROBLEMS WITH SCHOOL? DON'T YOU NEED MORE CREDITS?
YOU WOULD BRING THAT UP. 'CAUSE IF I CONCENTRATE ON THEATER AND DON'T GRADUATE, I WON'T GET MY INHERITANCE, AND THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SCAM ANY OF IT OFFA ME!
YOU'RE SO SUSPICIOUS. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
YEAH? WELL, DON'T YOU HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN HANG OUT HERE AND LECTURE ME?
DON'T YOU HAVE A HUSBAND AND CHILD WAITING AT HOME FOR YOU?

I SAW YOU WALKING AROUND THE MALL WITH A KID.
OH, SO THAT'S IT.
OH, I GET IT. YOU THINK I'M JUST SOME STUPID HOUSEWIFE WITH A WORKAHOLIC HUSBAND WHO NEVER COMES HOME AND IGNORES HER WHEN HE DOES SO OUT OF DESPERATION SHE ABANDONS HER KID AND GOES OUT PARTYING ALL NIGHT. IS THAT IT?
SHOULDN'T YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN BUSINESS BEFORE YOU TELL EVERYONE ELSE HOW TO RUN THEIR LIVES? SO WHAT IF YOUR HOME LIFE IS BORING?
THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR STUMBLING AROUND DRUNK NIGHTS AND BREAKING INTO GUYS' APARTMENTS.
HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE? DON'T PUT YOUR STEREOTYPES ON ME! WHO NEEDS YOUR GODDAMN LECTURING? YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING TOO MANY DAYTIME TALK SHOWS.
SO-- WHO ARE YOU, THEN?
HMM. GOOD QUESTION. JUST WHO AM I, ANYWAY?
A WIFE WHO'S A FAILURE AS A HOMEMAKER!
HMMM.
ONE-QUARTER CORRECT
MAYBE

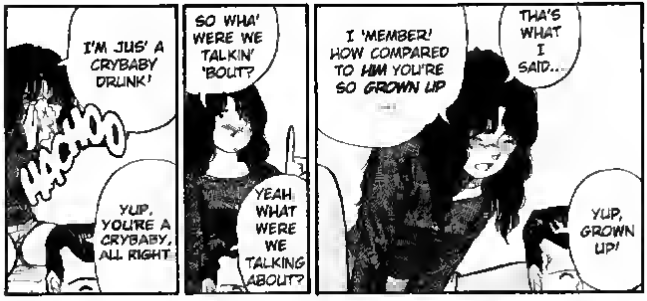
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ONE-QUARTER"?
GUESS !
FINALLY YOU GOT THE MESSAGE.
.. IT'S JUST SPRINK-LING.
YOU'D REALLY THROW ME OUT IN THE RAIN WITH NO PLACE TO GO?
NEVER MIND.
"STOP NAGGING! YOU'RE GIVING ME A HEADACHE! WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO AWAY?"
THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE GONNA SAY, RIGHT?
OKAY, THAT'S IT... I'M OUTTA HERE.
GUESS I'LL GO HOME AND GIVE MY KID A GLASS OF MILK
CHK!
BAM

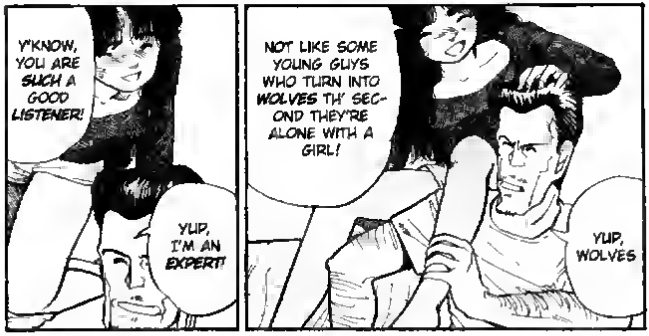
KLIK
RTTL
RTTL
RTTL
SILENCE...
PIT
PAT
PTT
PAT
Pitter Patter
Pitter Patter
IT'S COMING DOWN HARD AGAIN
.....
FFSSHHH

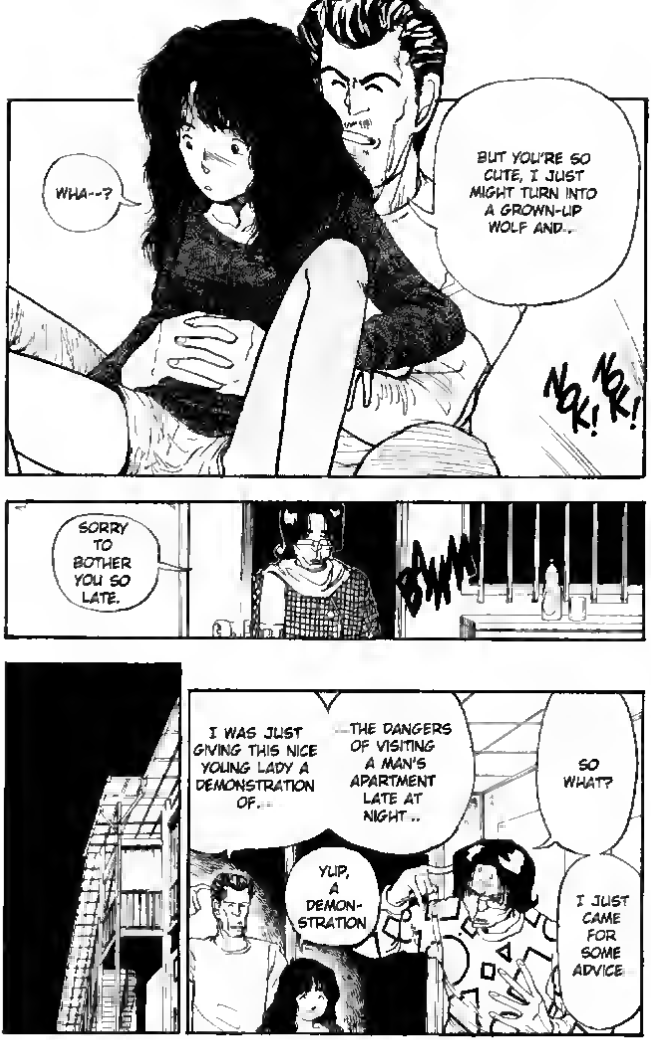
SO THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE HIDING!
SHEESH
SHUFFF-SHFFF-
SHFFFF SHFFF
.....
MEEROW
SIXTY


HUH?
I DON'T HAVE ANY PLACE TO SLEEP.
LEMME STAY, WILL YA?
THAT JERK, SUEKICHI. . WHAT AN ASS!
YEAH, HE SURE IS
DRINK UP!
JUMPIN' TO CONCLUSIONS 'BOUT PEOPLE...
HE DOES JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, THAT BOY!
HE HAD THE NERVE TO LECTURE ME!
YEAH, HE DOES HAVE NERVE.
BUT HE'S CLUELESS.

JUS' ANOTHER KNOW-IT-ALL COLLEGE KID.
YUP, A KNOW-IT-ALL.
HUH ?
WHAT?
WHY'M I CRYIN'!?
LOOK! LOOK!
YEAH, WHY ARE YOU CRYING?


I'M JUS' A CRYBABY DRUNK!
YUP, YOU'RE A CRYBABY, ALL RIGHT
SO WHA' WERE WE TALKIN' 'BOUT?
YEAH, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
I 'MEMBER! HOW COMPARED TO HIM YOU'RE SO GROWN UP
THA'S WHAT I SAID...
YUP, GROWN UP!


Y'KNOW, YOU ARE SUCH A GOOD LISTENER!
YUP, I'M AN EXPERT!
NOT LIKE SOME YOUNG GUYS WHO TURN INTO WOLVES TH' SECOND THEY'RE ALONE WITH A GIRL!
YUP, WOLVES


WHA--?
BUT YOU'RE SO CUTE, I JUST MIGHT TURN INTO A GROWN-UP WOLF AND..
NOK! NOK!
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SO LATE.
BOWW
I WAS JUST GIVING THIS NICE YOUNG LADY A DEMONSTRATION OF..
...THE DANGERS OF VISITING A MAN'S APARTMENT LATE AT NIGHT..
SO WHAT?
YUP, A DEMON-STRATION
I JUST CAME FOR SOME ADVICE

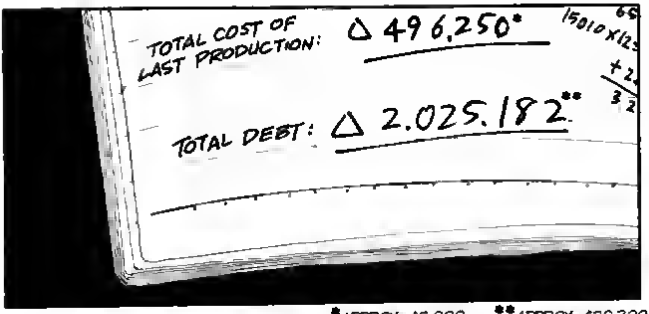
MY PROBLEM IS THIS... I FEEL AS IF I REACHED A GLASS CEILING IN OUR LAST PRODUCTION, YOU KNOW? IN TERMS OF MY ACTING, I MEAN.
IT'S AS IF I'VE REACHED THE APEX OF MY TALENTS... EXHAUSTED MY DRAMATIC INTUITION...
BESIDES, I'M ALMOST 30...
MY PARENTS KEEP TELLING ME TO SETTLE DOWN, GET A REAL JOB, GET MARRIED, HAVE KIDS...
WHAT AM I TO DO?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST QUIT?
WHAT ?
YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE UNSURE AT ALL, YOU SHOULD QUIT.
'CAUSE IF YOU'RE INSECURE ABOUT YOUR ACTING, YOU'LL JUST RUIN THINGS FOR THE REST OF US
YOU WANT TO QUIT, DON'T YOU?
WELL... UMM...
WAIT! DID YOU HEAR A WORD I SAID?
CLICK
I'LL JUST THINK THIS THROUGH ON MY OWN .
PRETTY HARSH, IKEZU!

ACTUALLY, GUYS LIKE THAT ARE A DIME A DOZEN. IT'S NOT THAT THEY ACTUALLY WANT TO GIVE UP ACTING THEY JUST DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP THE LIFESTYLE THEY HAD BEFORE THEY STARTED ACTING.
PLUS, THEY THINK AGONIZING ABOUT THEIR LIVES MAKES THEM MORE GROWN UP.
YOU'RE GROWN UP, IKEZU!
YOU SAID IT
WELL, THIS GROWN UP DRANK TOO MUCH, SO HE'S GONNA GO THROW UP AND THEN DRINK SOME MORE!
WHAT A GROWN UP!
UHRP!
BLARRGH!
I'M COMIN', I'M COMIN'!
UMM, 'SCUSE ME, IKEZU... SORRY TO CALL SO LATE, BUT, UH, WOULD AYA HAPPEN TO BE THERE, BY ANY CHANCE?
WHA--!? YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR AYA?
OH! THAT'S ME!
HUH ?

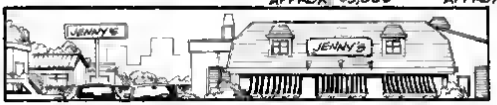
DANCE till TOMORROW

ACT FIFTEEN **EXODUS**

WHA..?
OH M-MORNING
NOW WHERE WAS I ...?
YAWWWN
TAK TAK TAK
.....
DONE..
FINALLY..



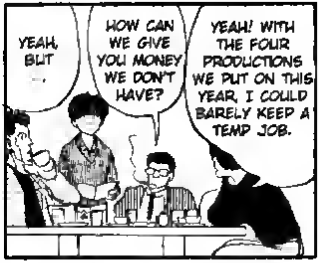
*APPROX. $5,000 **APPROX. $20,300



...AND SO, ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, OUR LAST PRODUCTION COST ABOUT 500,000 YEN. ADDED TO THE UNPAID BILLS FROM OUR PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS, THAT PUTS US IN THE RED BY OVER 2 MILLION YEN.
YOU BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER HERE JUST TO TELL US THAT?
SIX COFFEES, PLEASE.
ANYONE GETTING ANY FOOD?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "JUST"! THE POINT IS, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO PUT ON ANOTHER SHOW!
DON'T LOTS OF PRODUCTION COMPANIES HAVE DEBTS OF 2 OR 3 MILLION?
SORRY I'M LATE. I'LL HAVE A COFFEE.

YEAH, BUT WE'RE NOT BIG ENOUGH TO HANDLE A DEBT LIKE THAT. AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE A SPONSOR OR ANYTHING...
ONE REASON WE'RE BROKE IS THAT YOU GUYS HAVEN'T PAID YOUR DUES.


YEAH, BUT...
HOW CAN WE GIVE YOU MONEY WE DON'T HAVE?
YEAH! WITH THE FOUR PRODUCTIONS WE PUT ON THIS YEAR, I COULD BARELY KEEP A TEMP JOB.

WHY DON'T WE TAKE A BREAK TO WORK AND SAVE UP SOME MONEY?
ISN'T IT YOUR JOB TO GET RID OF OUR DEBT, ANYWAY?
YEAH, SO WHY DON'T YOU, LIKE, GET US A SPONSOR ALREADY?
WHAT?

DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON SUEKICHI, GUYS!
IF WE WERE ALL DOING OUR PART, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THIS PROBLEM, WOULD WE?
BUT...
YEAH, BUT.. AREN'T YOU SPENDING TOO MUCH ON SETS?
LIKE I KEEP SAYING, WE SHOULD SPEND LESS AND SIMPLIFY THINGS --CENTER MORE ON THE ACTORS
WHAT'S THE POINT OF BRINGING THAT UP NOW?
WELL, BECAUSE
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
I GOTTA GET TO WORK SOON
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE ALL YOU CARE ABOUT ARE YOUR JOBS OR SAVING MONEY ON SETS AND STUFF LIKE THAT YOU'RE TREATING THE THEATER LIKE A HOBBY!
AS FAR AS THE MONEY'S CONCERNED--I'LL TRY TO SCROUNGE SOME UP AND I EXPECT ALL OF YOU TO DO THE SAME.
WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN A WEEK. IN THE MEANTIME, FIGURE OUT YOUR PRIORITIES IF THE TROUPE ISN'T NUMBER ONE, DON'T COME

UM, YES, THAT'S RIGHT... IF I COULD JUST BORROW TEN THOUSAND ...

BUT THE LATE MR. TERAYAMA GAVE ME STRICT INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE...

SLAM!

BUT IT'S NOT FOR *ME*, IT'S FOR THE *TROUPE* ...

HIYA !

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO?
SHHH
IT'S NOTHING, SIR. OH, THE VOICE? NO, NO, IT'S JUST THE TELEVISION
SO, LIKE I WAS SAYING, COULD YOU POSSIBLY
WHAT ?
PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON?
ALL THIS STRESS CAN'T BE GOOD FOR YOU. PERHAPS THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO CONCENTRATE ON YOUR STUDIES.
HEY, WHO IS IT?
.....

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
IF YOU NEED A PLACE TO SLEEP, GO TO IKEZU'S.
I'M HERE TO, YOU KNOW-- MAKE UP!
I HEAR THE TROUPE'S GOT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.
IKEZU TOLD YOU, HUH?
WELL, IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SO YOU CAN GO NOW.
ISN'T A MEASLY 2 MILLION JUST A DROP IN THE BUCKET COMPARED TO YOUR 450 MILLION YEN INHERITANCE?
JUST LEAVE!! LEAVE! LEAVE! LEAVE! LEAVE!
BECAUSE I COULD LEND YOU ONE MILLION...
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO TREAT ME LIKE THIS
WHY ?

WHERE'D YOU GET ALL THAT MONEY?
THAT'S ABOUT THE AMOUNT MOST WORKING STIFFS KEEP IN THEIR SAVINGS.
WANT ME TO LEND IT TO YOU-- INTEREST FREE AND WITHOUT COLLATERAL?
N-NO, I CAN'T !!
GULP
GEEZ. SWALLOW YOUR PRIDE FOR ONCE AND BE PRACTICAL. YOUR TROUPE'S IN BAD SHAPE!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT ?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!?
YOU THINK IF I LEND YOU THE MONEY I'LL HOLD IT OVER YOU AND MAKE YOU GRANT MY EVERY WHIM?
AND IN THE END I'LL MAKE OFF WITH YOUR INHERITANCE?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING?
TH-THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE GIST OF IT.

I-I WON'T FALL FOR THIS!!
OH, BY THE WAY, I TALKED TO IKEZU..
IS HE REALLY GONNA QUIT?
IKEZU
THE TROUPE'S A MESS.
I CAN'T DEAL WITH ALL THAT BICKERING, SO I'M LEAVING.
I'LL JUST GO HOME AND LIVE OFF MY PARENTS FOR A WHILE
SKHHEECH!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FOR A WHILE"?
I'LL PAY UP LATER, OKAY?
HERE'S MY PARENTS' NUMBER.
EVEN IF I GAVE YOU MY LAST YEN, IT WOULDN'T BE MORE THAN A DROP IN THE BUCKET.

B-BUT IF YOU LEAVE NOW, THE TROUPE WILL FALL APART!
IT'S ALREADY FALLING APART.
AFTER THE FINAL PERFORMANCE, WE WERE ALL WIPED OUT.
THAT'S HOW THE TROUBLE STARTS — LIKE THIS MONEY THING. EVERYONE STARTS ARGUING, AND IT'S ALL DOWNHILL FROM THERE.
THAT'S HOW IT GOES. I'VE SEEN IT ALL BEFORE.
BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO QUIT THE THEATER, IS IT?
I TOLD YOU, I'D RATHER QUIT THAN BE IN A HALF-ASSED SHOW WITH A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'RE THERE.
BESIDES, SHIMOMURA'S TROUPE IS THE ONLY ONE I WANT TO BE IN.

CLICK

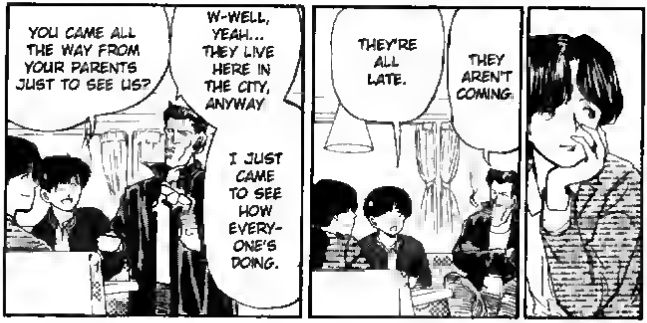
GOOD MORNING

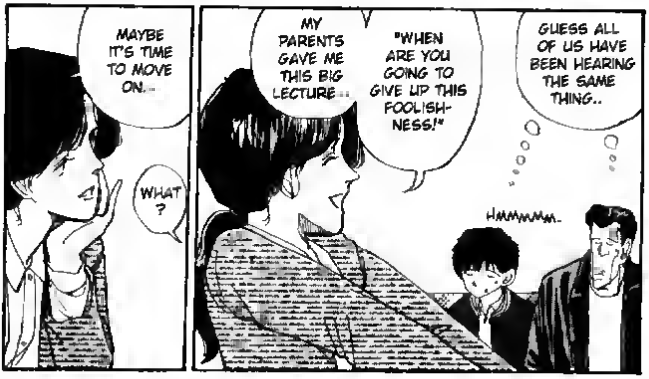
LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO SCRAPE UP ONE MILLION OR SO
BUT FIRST MY PARENTS MADE ME LISTEN TO THEIR WHOLE SPIEL...
YOU KNOW... "IS SOME MAN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU?" AND ALL THAT.
OH..
COFFEE PLEASE
A SMALL FOR ME

GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, HUH?
LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S LATE...

HUH?
TUMP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
NICE GLASSES. THE HAIR, TOO.
WHY, W-WHAT A COIN-CIDENCE!

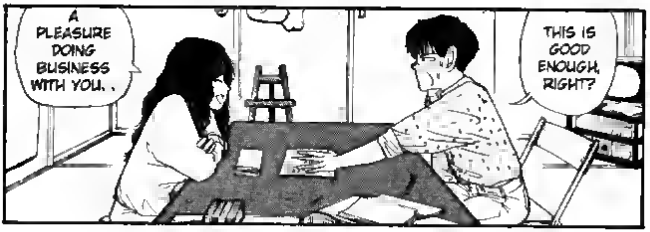

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM YOUR PARENTS JUST TO SEE US?
W-WELL, YEAH... THEY LIVE HERE IN THE CITY, ANYWAY
I JUST CAME TO SEE HOW EVERY-ONE'S DOING.
THEY'RE ALL LATE.
THEY AREN'T COMING.


MAYBE IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON...
WHAT?
MY PARENTS GAVE ME THIS BIG LECTURE...
"WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE UP THIS FOOLISH-NESS!"
GUESS ALL OF US HAVE BEEN HEARING THE SAME THING..
HMMMMM..

BUT IF WE QUIT NOW, IT'LL MEAN THE OTHERS WERE RIGHT TO GIVE UP
ALL OUR EFFORTS WILL BE FOR NOTHING.
I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THAT I CAN'T.
BUT HOW CAN WE KEEP THE TROUPE GOING WITH JUST THE THREE OF US? WE COULD RECRUIT MORE PEOPLE, BUT—
WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY? THE MONEY?
YOU THINK WE CAN SCROUNGE UP THE OTHER 1 MILLION... AND THEN SCRAPE TOGETHER ANOTHER 2 MILLION TO PUT ON ANOTHER PRODUCTION?
I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY, MUCH LESS THE CASH...
OR DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF LEAD...?
A-A LEAD
YES ...
YES, I DO HAVE A LEAD!

SUE-KICHI ...
WE'LL KEEP THIS TROUPE ALIVE, MS. SHIMOMURA!
HEY, CAN I GET A REFILL OVER HERE?

I, SUEKICHI TERAYAMA, HAVE BORROWED FROM AYA HIBINO THE AMOUNT OF 1 MILLION YEN
APRIL 10
SIGNED,


A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU. .
THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH, RIGHT?

FWIP
AREN'T YOU EVEN GOING TO THANK ME?
ENOUGH ALREADY.
AFTER ALL, YOU ARE BORROWING MY HARD-EARNED MONEY!
DON'T I AT LEAST DESERVE A LITTLE GRATITUDE?
AND MAKE IT SWEET...
TH-THANKS
AGH! WHAT NOW!?
ZOOP
HMMM. I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD ASK FOR FOR COLLATERAL.
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT ANY!
THAT WAS BEFORE
NOBODY'S FORCING YOU TO BORROW THIS MONEY, YOU KNOW
HMM...
YOU DEVIL...
WELL..
OKAY, THEN... THE COLLATERAL WILL BE YOU, SUEKICHI
NOW, SAY YOU'RE HAPPY!
PAT! PAT!
I'M EC-STATIC.

TO BE CONTINUED!

ACT SIXTEEN
THE MERCHANT OF PENIS

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

Story & Art by NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by LILLIAN OLSEN
English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR.

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen (4.5 million dollars) of his grandmother's estate. But he much prefers his work as the producer of an avant-garde theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader Ms. Shimamura. At the same time, Suekichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Ayu—even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

A 1 million yen loan from Ayu has saved the theater troupe from bankruptcy, but all the members except for Suekichi, Ms. Shimamura, and an ambivalent Ikezu have dropped out anyway due to lack of enthusiasm.

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THE ONE CALLED TERAYAMA SUEKICHI, HAVING BORROWED 1 MILLION, WHAT DOST THOU MEAN, THOU CANNOT PAY IT BACK?
THE ALLOTTED TIME HAS PASSED. THOU MUST NOW FULFILL THY PROMISE
I, Terayama Suekichi, having borrowed from Aya Hitomo the sum of 1 Million
WHAT ALLOTTED TIME? WE NEVER AGREED ON ANY TIME LIMIT!
I TELL THEE, THY TIME IS UP! NOW FULFILL THY PLEDGE!
WHAT PLEDGE?
COLLECTION OF THY COLLATERAL
AS AGREED, BECAUSE THOU HAST FAILED TO PAY UP, THOU WILLST FORFEIT ONE POUND OF..
...THE MEAT OF THY PENIS! WHICH I WILL, FORTHWITH, CUT OFF

IS THIS SOME KIND OF "MERCHANT OF VENICE" GAG?
YUP!
HALT JUST ONE MOMENT!!
HMMM. TRULY, IT IS AS THIS DOCUMENT STATES.
SHYLOCK, THOU SHALLT COLLECT THY DEBT.
THE GREAT MAGISTRATE DANIEL HATH SPOKEN!
KLAP! KLAP! KLAP!
MS. SHIMO-MURA-AAAA!!
HOWEVER, THOU SHALLT NOT SPILL EVEN A SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD.
HOW-EVER...
MOREOVER, TECHNICALLY, THAT IS NOT MEAT, BUT SPONGY VASCULAR TISSUE!!
IT'LL MAKE A BLOODY MESS

SO WHAT!? I'M GONNA CUT IT!! I'M GONNA CUT IT!! I'M GONNA CUT IT!!
WAIT A MINUTE --!
WELL, IF SHE REALLY WANTS IT THAT BADLY, I GUESS THAT'S THE WAY IT'S..
MS. SHIMO-MURA ..
YES, MA'AM.
WHAT THE --!?
NOOO! I DON'T WANT TO HAVE MY PENIS CUT OFF!!
DON'T WORRY. RELAX. IT'S JUST A PLAY
BUT THAT'S A REAL KNIFE!
IT'S OKAY. RELAX
READY, SET..

AAAIEE!!

A D-D-
DREAM...
SNORE
FLASHBACK TIME
THUNDER BURGER
THUNDER BURGER

WOW! IT'S SO NICE OF AYA TO LEND US A MILLION YEN OF HER SAVINGS!
WELL, THERE IS THE SMALL MATTER OF THE COLLATERAL...
WHAT?
UH, NEVER MIND...
GOSH, I HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO PAY HER BACK... WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE...
SLURP! SLURP!
I--IT'LL ALL WORK OUT.
YOU SHOULD JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE PRODUCTIONS...
OH! I-I'M SORRY, MANAGER. I'LL GET RIGHT BACK TO WORK.
THAT'S OKAY, TAKE YOUR TIME. WE DON'T HAVE ANY CUSTOMERS ANYWAY.
GUESS WHAT?
Heh Heh...
I'VE BEEN EXPERIMENTING. WANT TO TRY THIS?
I CALL IT A "FRIED BEAN-CURD BURGER."

...AND I REALLY THINK THEY WERE ONLY HALF-HEARTED ABOUT QUITTING THE TROUPE. SO I'M GONNA TRY TO TALK TO THEM AND
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...
YOU KNOW, TALKING TO YOU LIKE THIS I GET THE FEELING THAT WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN AGAIN
WELCOME HO-OME!
FAAAAAA
UH... WHA...?
I BORROWED YOUR BATHTUB.

QUIT THAT.
IS THAT HOW YOU TREAT YOUR MONEY LENDER?
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
JUST CHECKING UP ON THE COLLATERAL
WAIT A SEC!
HEY! HEY!
YOU CAN'T RESIST IT..
YOU--!
....
SHUDDER

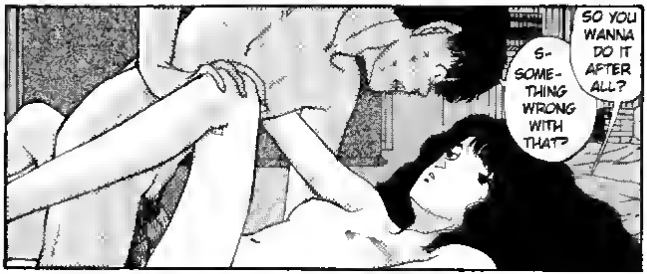
SEHNORR
HUH?
WHY THE SOUR FACE?
LONG TIME NO SEE
NOT VERY IMPRESSED, ARE YOU?
YEAH, WELL, THE IMPACT KINDA WEARS OFF AFTER REPEAT PERFORMANCES
YOU'RE NO FUN!
THIS GIRL KEEPS HARASSING ME BECAUSE OF THAT INHERITANCE YOU LEFT ME IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

PULP
THIS ONE HERE?
A FINE SPECIMEN MY TYPE, ACTUALLY
IF THIS IS THE ONE WHO'S SEDUCING YOU, I WOULDN'T COMPLAIN. WHAT A SPOILED BRAT YOU ARE!
DON'T BE FOOLED BY APPEARANCES.
YOU JUST DON'T SEE WHAT SHE'S LIKE, GREAT-GRANDPA.
SHE'S SELFISH, EMASCULATING, DRINKS LIKE A FISH—
AND SHE'S JUST AFTER MY MONEY!
ON TOP OF THAT, THANKS TO A TWIST OF FATE, I'VE HAD TO BORROW MONEY FROM HER, SO BASICALLY I'M HER SLAVE NOW.
SO YOU DID IT WITH HER.
IT'S NO FUN DOING IT WITH A WOMAN WHO HAS A HOLD OVER ME. I WANT MORE OF AN EQ--
BUT IT FELT GOOD, DIDN'T IT?

TH-THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
WELL, I GOTTA GET GOING..
W-WAIT! BEFORE YOU GO, CAN'T YOU GIVE ME SOME SAGE ADVICE?
WHAT FOR?
B-BECAUSE THAT'S HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ...YOU KNOW. THE GHOST HELPS THE TROUBLED YOUNG MAN AND...
WHO CAME UP WITH THAT?
WELL
SEE YA.
C-COME BACK HERE..
WHY ARE YOU SHOUTING?
WHAT'SA MATTER?
...GOING TO SLEEP.

WANNA DO IT AGAIN?
BUT NOW I'M WIDE AWAKE
JUST GO TO SLEEP.
CHIP
YOU'RE THE REASON I CAN'T FALL ASLEEP, YOU KNOW!
BUT... BUT...
PLEEEASE ...

C-CAN'T.
JUST DO WHAT YOUR BOSS SAYS, WILL YOU?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE ME DO IT FOR MONEY.
THAT'S WARPED. TYING A MAN DOWN LIKE THIS... WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF BLOOD-SUCKER?
NOT IN THE MOOD?
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
HEY!
SHIFT
SHIFT
THEN LET'S JUST SAY THIS IS A COMPLIMENTARY SERVICE.
Y-YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?
.....
AHH...


SO YOU WANNA DO IT AFTER ALL?
S-SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?

SO EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS TO HAVE SEX, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I FORCED YOU INTO IT
THAT'S NOT FAIR, IS IT?

HUH?

OKAY, I'LL STOP THEN.
WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO STOP?
SO WHAT SHOULD I DO?
YOU'RE ASKING ME?

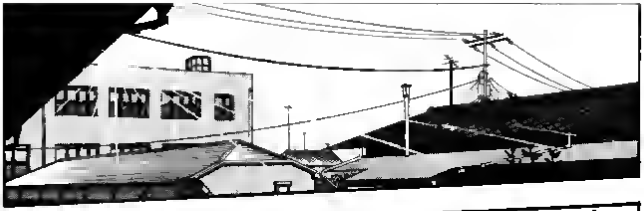
YOU'RE DRIVING ME NUTS!!
UNH!

...ENDED UP DOING IT AFTER ALL... ...UNTIL MORNING...
Whew!
GIVE ME BACK MY PENIS!!
BYE-BYE!
KLAP! KLAP! KLAP! KLAP!
MUST BE HAVING A NIGHT-MARE
Whimper! Whimper!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

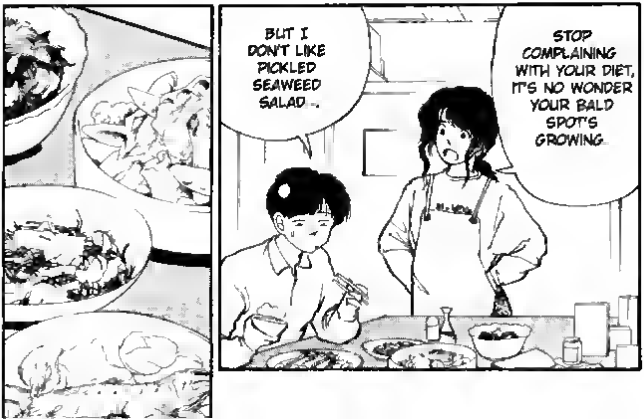
ACT SEVENTEEN

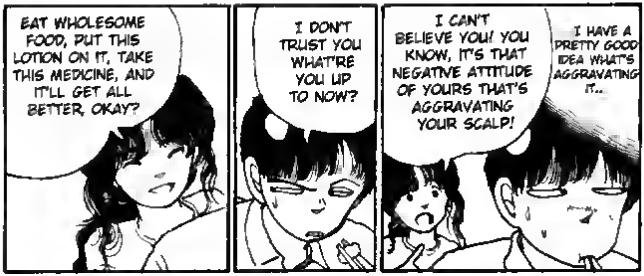
THE GREAT BALD SPOT

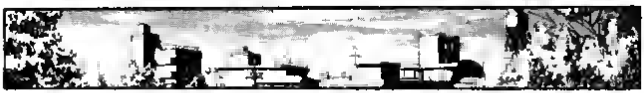


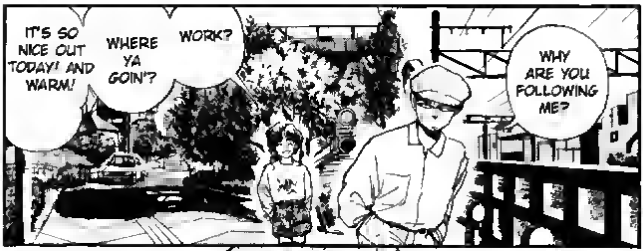
LATELY..

FOOD'S READY!
MY BALD SPOT SEEMS TO BE GROWING... (I THINK...)


BUT I DON'T LIKE PICKLED SEAWEED SALAD...
STOP COMPLAINING WITH YOUR DIET, IT'S NO WONDER YOUR BALD SPOT'S GROWING.

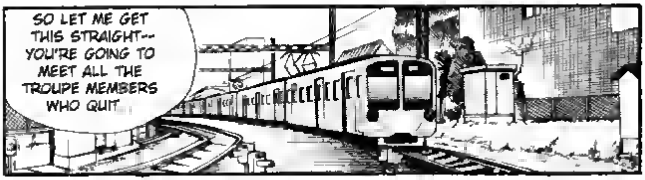

EAT WHOLESOME FOOD, PUT THIS LOTION ON IT, TAKE THIS MEDICINE, AND IT'LL GET ALL BETTER, OKAY?
I DON'T TRUST YOU WHAT'RE YOU UP TO NOW?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! YOU KNOW, IT'S THAT NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF YOURS THAT'S AGGRAVATING YOUR SCALP!
I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHAT'S AGGRAVATING IT...

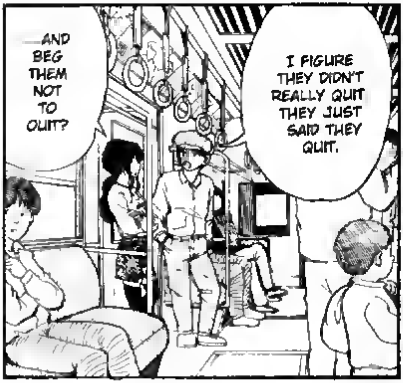



IT'S SO NICE OUT TODAY! AND WARM!
WHERE YA GOIN'?
WORK?
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO.
fumbl fumbl
HUH?

WHAAAT!?! ALL THAT MEDICINE AND FOOD CAME OUT OF MY WALLET!?
YOU KEPT SAYING YOU WERE BROKE, BUT THERE WERE A COUPLE OF HUNDREDS IN YOUR WALLET.
I BOUGHT THOSE THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!
BUT THAT WAS ALL THE MONEY I HAD!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO LIVE ON FOR THE NEXT MONTH?
WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT ALL YOUR MONEY ON THE TABLE THEN.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TODAY?
WANT TO GO BACK AND GO TO BED?
WANT ME TO LEND YOU SOME CASH?
STARTING WITH TRAIN FARE.


SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT--- YOU'RE GOING TO MEET ALL THE TROUPE MEMBERS WHO QUIT


I FIGURE THEY DIDN'T REALLY QUIT THEY JUST SAID THEY QUIT.
--AND BEG THEM NOT TO QUIT?

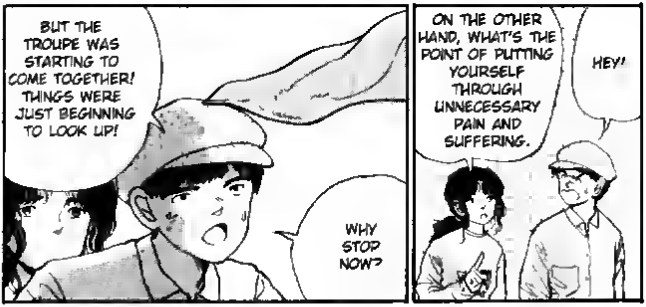
I'M SURE THEY'LL COME ROUND ONCE I TALK TO THEM.

I DON'T THINK THEY TRULY WANT TO STOP ACTING

Bread&Piz

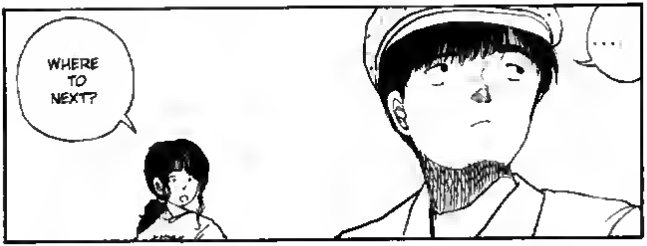
I'M SORRY, BUT I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF RETURNING.
I'LL DEFINITELY GIVE YOU THE MONEY I OWE YOU, THOUGH SOMETIME

I REALLY LIKE THE PLAYS SHIMOMURA PUTS ON.
FWIP
BUT IF I KEEP ACTING, I'M GOING TO END UP LIVING LIKE THIS FOREVER.
AND THE THOUGHT OF THAT..


BUT THE TROUPE WAS STARTING TO COME TOGETHER! THINGS WERE JUST BEGINNING TO LOOK UP!
WHY STOP NOW?
ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT'S THE POINT OF PUTTING YOURSELF THROUGH UNNECESSARY PAIN AND SUFFERING.
HEY!

IT'S OKAY FOR YOU-- YOU'RE A STUDENT
YOU STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO START OVER.

BUT I'M THIRTY YEARS OLD.
WHEN I PICTURE MY FUTURE... NO, I JUST CAN'T CONTINUE

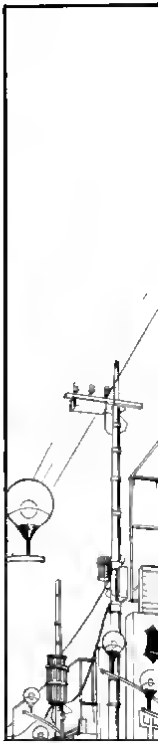

WHERE TO NEXT?
....

I'VE ALREADY GOT A NEW JOB LINED UP.
I SWEAR I'LL PAY YOU, THOUGH.

BOTH MY PARENTS ARE BEDRIDDEN. HOW CAN I JUSTIFY FOLLOWING MY BLISS?

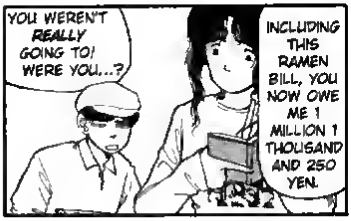
ROOM THREE?
HE WENT HOME ABOUT A WEEK AGO. DIDN'T LEAVE ANY FORWARDING ADDRESS.
Manager

....

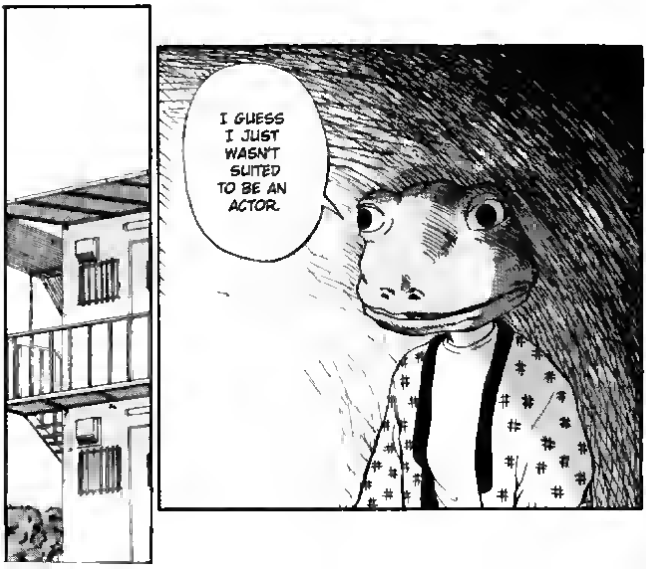


Chez Fooli Fonsan
Chinese Soba Noodles
RAMEN 450
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ORDER, SUEKICHI?
550
500
450
WHAT-EVER'S CHEAPEST..
GYOZA 380
SLURRP
COME ON, DON'T LOOK SO GLUM
YOU'RE SPOILING MY APPETITE
IS IT WHAT HE SAID ABOUT YOU BEING A STUDENT THAT'S BUGGING YOU?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE SAID THAT! JUST BECAUSE THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING BADLY FOR HIM LATELY...
IF HE WAS GOING TO BE LIKE THAT, HE SHOULDN'T HAVE JOINED THE TROUPE IN THE FIRST PLACE
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, SUEKICHI

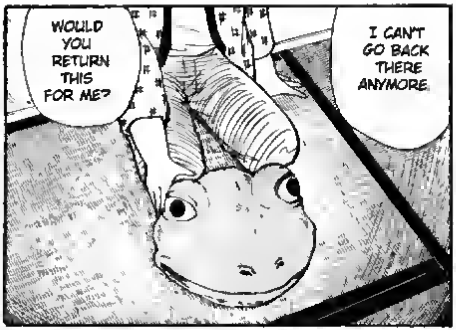
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TREAT ME TO THIS RAMEN INSTEAD OF TRYING TO CHEER ME UP...?
SHEEESH ...
I WAS GOING TO BUY YOU LUNCH, BUT NOW, FORGET IT.


YOU WEREN'T REALLY GOING TO! WERE YOU...?
INCLUDING THIS RAMEN BILL, YOU NOW OWE ME 1 MILLION 1 THOUSAND AND 250 YEN.

SO WHO...
...ARE WE GONNA VISIT NEXT?
SLAM!


I GUESS I JUST WASN'T SUITED TO BE AN ACTOR.

UM...WHY DON'T WE OPEN A CURTAIN?
NO, THAT'S OKAY. I'M MORE COMFORTABLE THIS WAY..
ANYWAY, YOU SHOULDN'T LIMIT YOUR OPTIONS LIKE THAT. AND IF EVERYONE QUITS NOW, THINK HOW UNHAPPY MS. SHIMOMURA WILL BE!
SORRY, BUT I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.. IN THE END I..
THIS IS THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING CORPORATION! WE WILL GET OUR MONEY TODAY!!
BAM! BAM! BAM!
UMM. COULD YOU LEND ME 2,000 YEN?
WE'RE NOT LEAVING UNTIL YOU PAY UP!
OKAY, THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL TO 1 MILLION 3 THOUSAND AND 420 YEN.
W-WAIT A SEC.
SO...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!


WOULD YOU RETURN THIS FOR ME?
I CAN'T GO BACK THERE ANYMORE.

TAKE OFF THAT STUPID MASK ALREADY WILL YOU!?
.....
.....

HUH?
KLIK KLIK
YOU DIDN'T PAY THE ELECTRIC BILL?
.....
.....
I'LL GO TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU.
W-WAIT!
I BOUGHT DINNER WHILE I WAS AT IT.
Dawson
WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO SIT IN THE DARK ALL MONTH?

NOW YOUR TOTAL IS 1 MILLION 7 THOUSAND AND 40 YEN.
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO BUY ALL THAT!
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT IT.
:::::
GRONL!
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST PRETEND YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR MEAL?
THEY SAID THE LIGHTS'LL BE BACK ON TOMORROW.
I CAN'T FAKE IT.
HUH?
I THINK YOUR BALD SPOT'S GOTTEN BIGGER.
SEE?
DON'T PICK AT IT!!
WHA --
VISITING EVERYONE TODAY MUST HAVE BEEN STRESSFUL FOR YOU.
POOR SUEKICHI
OH, LOOK! SOME MORE CAME OUT.
.....
.....

SO HELP ME RELIEVE SOME STRESS...
YOU ONLY SEE ME AS A SEX TOY, DON'T YOU, SUEKICHI?
WHAT!? YOU ONLY THINK OF ME AS A SECURITY DEPOSIT!
THAT'S MEAN.
SO ARE YOU SAYING YOU LOVE ME?
YOU TOLD ME BEFORE THAT YOU DID!
WELL, HOW ABOUT YOU?
I..I LOVE YOU
REALLY ?
BUT WON'T I GET BALD SPOTS TOO IF WE DO IT NOW?
IMPOSSIBLE THAT WOULD DEFY THE LAWS OF NATURE IT SAID SO IN THOSE BOOKS, REMEMBER?
OOPS

.. I DON'T HAVE A CONDOM ..
RIGHT HERE
IS THIS GOING TO BE PART OF THE BALANCE ..?
YUP ! JUST BOUGHT 'EM
. . . . . .
WANT TO STOP?
AHH!
SHOOP
MMM ..
H-HEY! WAIT!

EEEEEYAAAARRRGGHH!!!!!
WELL, YOU CAN'T JUST WALK AROUND LOOKING LIKE YOU HAVE MANGE.
BESIDES, IT'LL GROW BACK FASTER THIS WAY
REALLY?
HERE
BOP!
IS THIS WIG ALSO--
WHAT, YOU'D RATHER WALK AROUND BALD?
YOUR TOTAL IS NOW 1 MILLION 5 THOUSAND AND 40 YEN.

TO BE CONTINUED!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

Story & Art by NAOKI YAMAMOTO

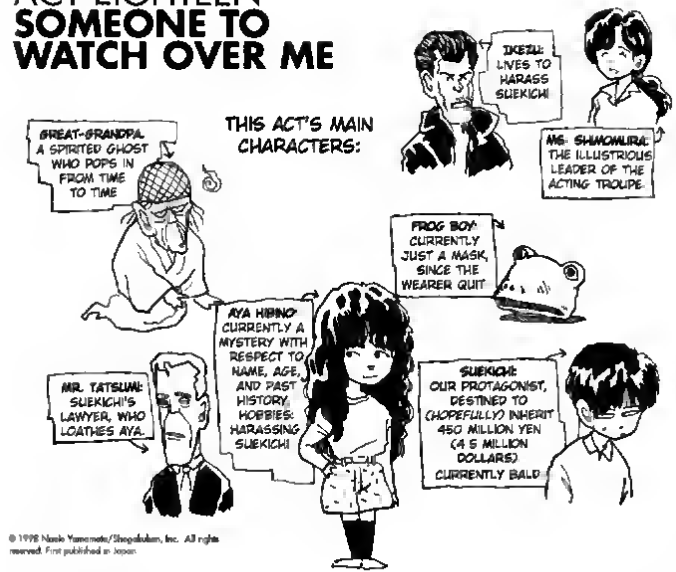
Translation by LILLIAN OLSEN English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen if he graduates. But he much prefers his work as the producer of an avant-garde theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader Ms. Shimomura. At the same time Suekichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Aya—even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

Suekichi has borrowed 1 million yen from Aya to bring the theater troupe back from the brink of bankruptcy but all the members except for Ms. Shimomura Ikezu and himself have dropped out anyway. And now the stress of having Aya hold the loan over his head has led to all the hair on it falling out!

ACT EIGHTEEN
SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME


THIS ACT'S MAIN CHARACTERS:
IKEZU: LIVES TO HARASS SUEKICHI
MS. SHIMOMURA: THE ILLUSTRIOUS LEADER OF THE ACTING TROUPE
GREAT-GRANDPA: A SPIRITED GHOST WHO POPS IN FROM TIME TO TIME
FROG BOY: CURRENTLY JUST A MASK, SINCE THE WEARER QUIT
AYA HIBINO: CURRENTLY A MYSTERY WITH RESPECT TO NAME, AGE, AND PAST HISTORY. HOBBIES: HARASSING SUEKICHI
MR. TATSUMI: SUEKICHI'S LAWYER, WHO LOATHES AYA.
SUEKICHI: OUR PROTAGONIST, DESTINED TO (HOPEFULLY) INHERIT 450 MILLION YEN (4.5 MILLION DOLLARS). CURRENTLY BALD.

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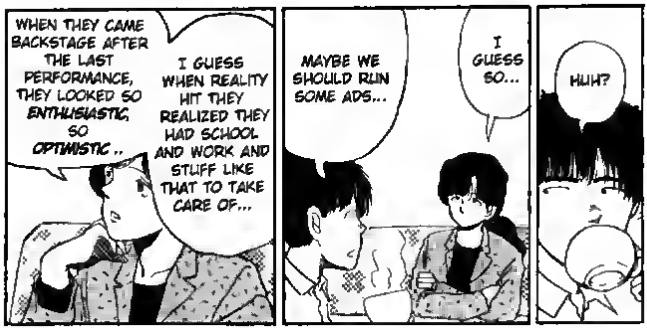
Jenny's
Jenny's

THEY'RE LATE, HUH? THOSE PEOPLE WHO SAID THEY WANTED TO JOIN THE TROUPE...
YOU THINK I'VE BEEN STOOD UP AGAIN?


WHEN THEY CAME BACKSTAGE AFTER THE LAST PERFORMANCE, THEY LOOKED SO ENTHUSIASTIC, SO OPTIMISTIC..
I GUESS WHEN REALITY HIT THEY REALIZED THEY HAD SCHOOL AND WORK AND STUFF LIKE THAT TO TAKE CARE OF...
MAYBE WE SHOULD RUN SOME ADS...
I GUESS SO...
HUH?

BLAH! BLAH! BLAH! BLAH!
GOD! GOD! GOD!
GOD! GOD!
BLAH! BLAH!

WHAT'S WRONG?
OH, NOTHING...

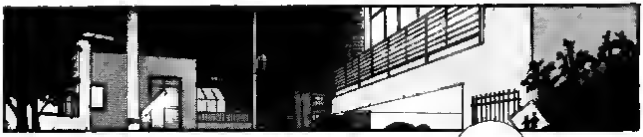
UH, SUEKICHI!.. YOUR HAIR...
OOPS..

GEEZ...THINGS HAVE REALLY BEEN TOUGH, HUH?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL..

I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN PUTTING SO MUCH PRESSURE ON YOU-.
WHAT WITH THE DEBT AND ALL...
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT REALLY THE REASON..

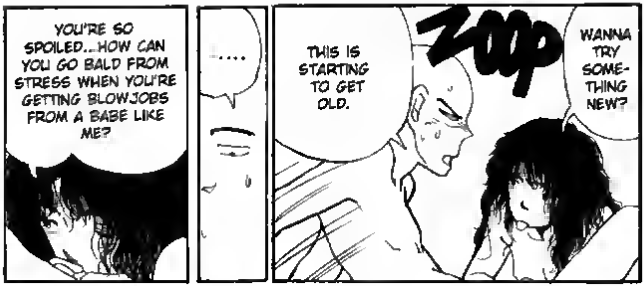
HUH?

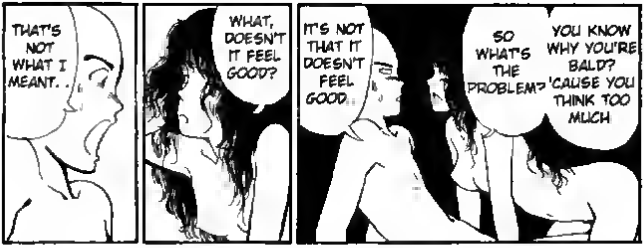
WHADDYA KNOW? THIS RUG LOOKS PRETTY CONVINCING.
HEY!
HE'S HAVING WOMAN TROUBLES, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS.
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE!
SO WHERE ARE THE NEWCOMERS? BEEN STOOD UP AGAIN?
YEAH, LOOKS THAT WAY
ISN'T MAY TOO WARM FOR THAT COAT?
MUST BE A STUDENT. I KEEP TELLING YOU STUDENTS NOWADAYS ARE...
chatter chatter
YOU'RE SURE NOTHING'S WRONG?
I'VE GOT THIS FUNNY FEELING—LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED...
WELL, NATURALLY PEOPLE ARE STARING AT YOU!



IS HE TRYING TO BE A MONK, OR WHAT?

LOOKS KINDA LIKE YODA, HUH?


YOU'RE SO SPOILED...HOW CAN YOU GO BALD FROM STRESS WHEN YOU'RE GETTING BLOWJOBS FROM A BABE LIKE ME?
.....
THIS IS STARTING TO GET OLD.
ZOOP
WANNA TRY SOME-THING NEW?


THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. .
WHAT, DOESN'T IT FEEL GOOD?
IT'S NOT THAT IT DOESN'T FEEL GOOD.
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE BALD? 'CAUSE YOU THINK TOO MUCH

.....
YOU CAN COME INSIDE ME TODAY.

THIS AGAIN

YIP!
TMP TMP TMP
WHOOSH
THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE AGAIN!! JUST A SECOND AGO!! I SWEAR!!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? YOU HAVE THAT LOOK..
YOU'RE A NUTCASE, YOU KNOW THAT? YOU MUST BE HAVING AUDITORY HALLUCINATIONS OR SOMETHING.
WHATEVER!
GLOM
WAK!

HUH?
THUNDER
BURGER
EH?
HMMM?
KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAKKLAK KLAKKLAK
.....

MAYBE I AM JUST LOSING IT...

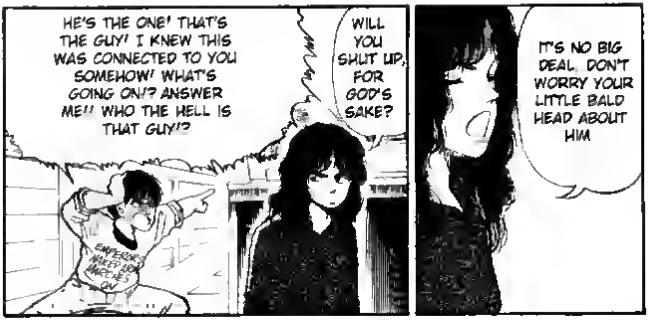
SO IT WAS YOU!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? JUST STOP IT!
C-CALM DOWN, AYA. J-JUST HEAR ME OUT.

THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN US ANYMORE-- REMEMBER?
AYA, TH-THAT'S NOT IT. JUST LISTEN TO ME. THAT MAN ..

EH?

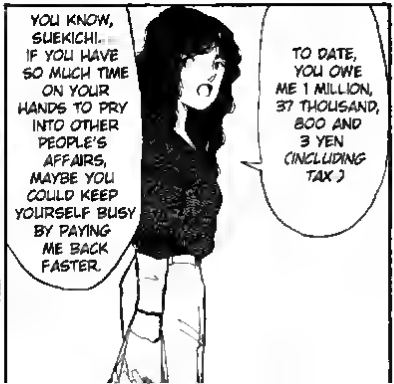
HEY!
WAK!
JUMP
ZIPP


HE'S THE ONE! THAT'S THE GUY! I KNEW THIS WAS CONNECTED TO YOU SOMEHOW! WHAT'S GOING ON!? ANSWER ME!! WHO THE HELL IS THAT GUY!?
WILL YOU SHUT UP, FOR GOD'S SAKE?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL. DON'T WORRY YOUR LITTLE BALD HEAD ABOUT HIM

DON'T WORRY?! HE'S STALKING ME!
THE TRUTH IS...

HE'S A YAKUZA.
I WAS ONCE HIS WIFE, BUT I ESCAPED HIS CLUTCHES AND FLED TO YOUR PLACE! SO NOW HE'S TRYING TO KILL YOU

YEAH, RIGHT!
SUIT YOUR-SELF.

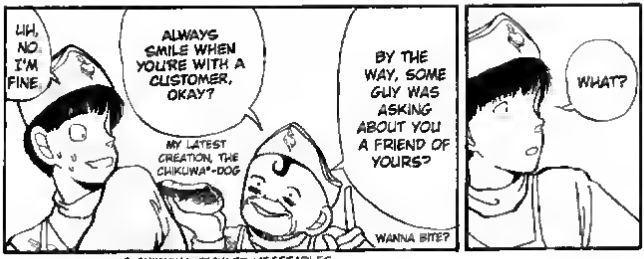

YOU KNOW, SUEKICHI... IF YOU HAVE SO MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS TO PRY INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS, MAYBE YOU COULD KEEP YOURSELF BUSY BY PAYING ME BACK FASTER.
TO DATE, YOU OWE ME 1 MILLION, 37 THOUSAND, 800 AND 3 YEN (INCLUDING TAX.)

WHAT!! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN INVADING MY PRIVACY!!
WAIT! YOU'RE GOING TO PUT THOSE DINNER GROCERIES ON THE TAB TOO, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, IT'S CHEAPER THAN EATING OUT
NOBODY'S FORCING YOU TO EAT.

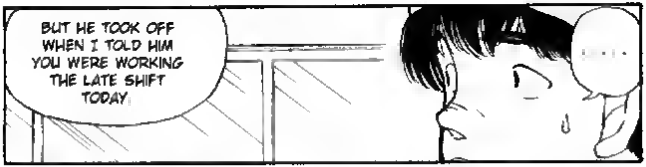
THUNDER BURGER

THAT QUESTION AGAIN...
THUNDER
BURGER
WHO IS HIBINO, ANYWAY?

IF THAT GUY REALLY IS A YAKUZA...
YOU LAID YOUR FILTHY HANDS ON MY WOMAN...
WAK!
OH! UH, MANAGER ...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK DOWN


UH, NO. I'M FINE.
ALWAYS SMILE WHEN YOU'RE WITH A CUSTOMER, OKAY?
MY LATEST CREATION, THE CHIKUWA*-DOG
BY THE WAY, SOME GUY WAS ASKING ABOUT YOU A FRIEND OF YOURS?
WANNA BITE?
WHAT?

* CHIKUWA: PICKLED VEGETABLES



YEAH...BEST TO GIVE A WIDE BERTH TO NUTCASES LIKE THAT!
KRAKOOM
HOLY SH--!
KLANK! KLATTER! KLATTER!
MEOW
KLANG
AAAHHHH!
YOWCH!
WHUMP
AAAHHH!
AAHHH!
AAAHHHH!

HUFF! PUFF! GASP! PANT!
W-WHY ARE YOU STALKING ME!?
A-ANSWER ME! Y-YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM ME NOW!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
GIVE ME A BREAK!!
SPILL IT, YOU...
Y-YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONE...

...WHO'S LEADING AYA ON!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU CONNED HER OUT OF 1 MILLION YEN!!
WAIT A SEC'... I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEING HARRASSED!
B-B-BUT.... YOU HAVE TAKEN HER MONEY, RIGHT?
YEAH. SO? WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS?
WHO ARE YOU TO HIBINO?
...HER NAME ISN'T HIBINO, IT'S MUNA-KATA.
AND AYA IS..
WHAT?

TO BE CONTINUED!!!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by KAORI KAWAKUBO
English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

ACT NINETEEN
PUPPY LOVE

THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen if he graduates. But he much prefers his work as the producer of an avant-garde theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader, Ms. Shimamura. At the same time, Suekichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Aya—even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

Suekichi has borrowed 1 million yen from Aya to bring the theater troupe back from the brink of bankruptcy. But the stress of owing Aya all that money has left his pate as bald as a cue ball. And being stalked by a man claiming to be Aya's ex-husband isn't promoting hair regrowth!

Now Aya has cut a deal with Suekichi: If he takes her on a romantic Sunday outing, she promises to bail out.

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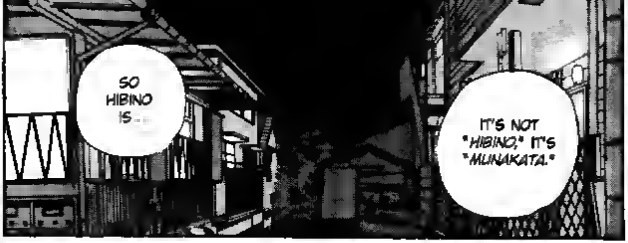
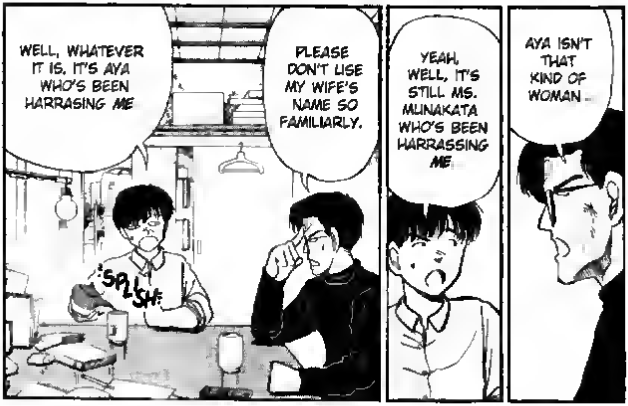
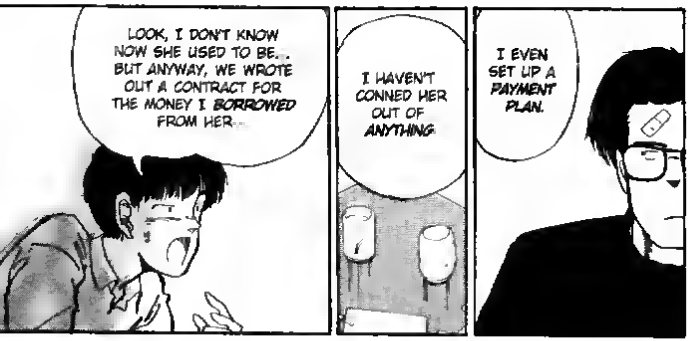
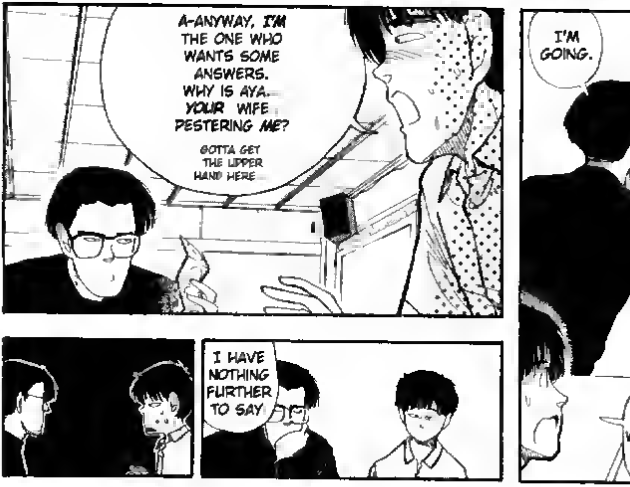

SO HIBINO IS...
IT'S NOT "HIBINO," IT'S "MUNAKATA."


WELL, WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S AYA WHO'S BEEN HARRASING ME
PLEASE DON'T USE MY WIFE'S NAME SO FAMILIARLY.
SPLSH
YEAH, WELL, IT'S STILL MS. MUNAKATA WHO'S BEEN HARRASSING ME.
AYA ISN'T THAT KIND OF WOMAN...


LOOK, I DON'T KNOW NOW SHE USED TO BE... BUT ANYWAY, WE WROTE OUT A CONTRACT FOR THE MONEY I BORROWED FROM HER...
I HAVEN'T CONNED HER OUT OF ANYTHING.
I EVEN SET UP A PAYMENT PLAN.

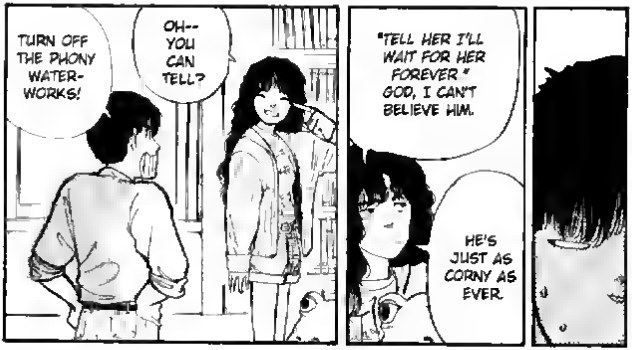
SO YOU CLAIM YOU'RE NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER?
LOOK, LIKE I KEEP TELLING YOU, I'M THE ONE WHO'S GETTING HARRASSED!

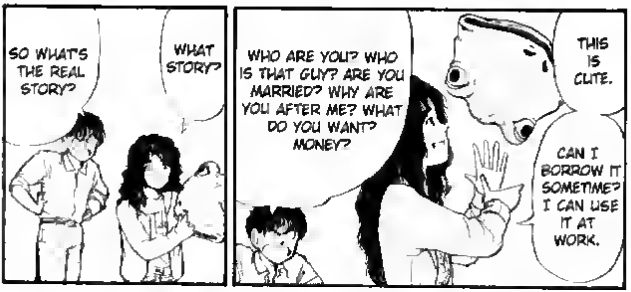
..THEN WHAT'S THIS?
THIS WAS JUST LYING HERE
AND THESE?


A-ANYWAY, I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS SOME ANSWERS. WHY IS AYA, YOUR WIFE PESTERING ME?
GOTTA GET THE UPPER HAND HERE
I'M GOING.
I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY
WAIT!!

YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION!
YES, AYA IS MY WIFE.
AND YOU... YOU WISH TO HAVE AYA OUT OF YOUR LIFE.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU ALREADY TOLD ME THAT!
AND IT IS MY HOPE THAT AYA WILL RETURN TO ME AND BE MY WIFE ONCE AGAIN.
TH-THAT'S RIGHT
GOOD I WANTED TO HEAR YOU SAY IT
.THAT I WILL WAIT FOR HER FOREVER.
W-WAIT!
IF YOU SEE AYA, PLEASE TELL HER...

WHAT!?
BAM!
....
EH?
HIYA
SWISH
YOU HEARD THE WHOLE THING!?
HEY!
DON'T PLAY WITH THE PROPS!
..I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TRUST THAT GUY MORE THAN ME...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT LEAST MY FRIEND...


TURN OFF THE PHONY WATER-WORKS!
OH-- YOU CAN TELL?
"TELL HER I'LL WAIT FOR HER FOREVER." GOD, I CAN'T BELIEVE HIM.
HE'S JUST AS CORNY AS EVER.

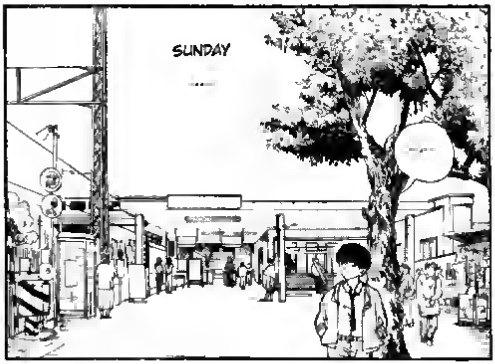

SO WHAT'S THE REAL STORY?
WHAT STORY?
WHO ARE YOU? WHO IS THAT GUY? ARE YOU MARRIED? WHY ARE YOU AFTER ME? WHAT DO YOU WANT? MONEY?
THIS IS CUTE.
CAN I BORROW IT SOMETIME? I CAN USE IT AT WORK.

WORK?
WHAT WORK? WHAT ARE YOU, A COMEDIAN? A KINKY PROSTITUTE?
GEEZ, STOP PRYING. IT'S ANNOYING.
YEAH, WELL, I'M ANNOYING. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO BACK TO MUNAKATA. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO BACK, THEN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS!!
YOU REALLY DO CARE ABOUT ME, HUH?

IT'S NOT THAT, STUPID
POP!
WELL, I GUESS I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

FIRST YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO TAKE ME OUT ON A DATE THIS SUNDAY.
I'LL ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS THEN
A D-DATE ?

BUT ON ONE CONDITION ..
HMM..


SUNDAY

SORRY I'M LATE!

I EVEN MADE LUNCH!
WHAT IS IT?
GEE, I SURE HOPE IT DOESN'T RAIN...
WHAT'S THAT S'POSED TO MEAN?
WE'RE NOT TAKING THE TRAIN?
I DON'T HAVE ANY TRAIN FARE
WELL, I GUESS I WASN'T REALLY EXPECTING THE WHOLE NINE YARDS ANYWAY...YOU KNOW... THE CAR RIDE TO THE FANCY WATERFRONT RESTAURANT ..
BUT IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON JUST WALKING AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND CALLING THAT A DATE, I'LL BE MAJORLY PISSED. JUST TO LET YOU KNOW.
HUH?

WELL, IT IS A WATER-FRONT.
GIVE ME A BREAK.
NO LOITING
KINDA LIKE AN INNOCENT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DATE, HUH?
I GUESS IT'S GOOD TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS ONCE IN A WHILE
YOU WANNA WRITE NOTES TO EACH OTHER NOW?
OKAY, NOW START COUGHING UP SOME ANSWERS.
.....
STOP FAKING!

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ME!
HEY! C'MON, AYA.
MMMMMM
CHECK OUT THE HOT COUPLE!
GETTIN' DOWN!
ULP!
HELLO! WE'RE THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD BRATS.
HEY--THAT DUDE WAS GONNA KISS YOU, YOU KNOW THAT?
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
DON'T MIND US! KEEP GOING!
LITTLE BRATS!

LIKE THIS?
EEEW! THEY'RE REALLY DOIN' IT!
YOU IDIOT!
THAT WAS GROSS!
SHE SLIPPED HIM THE TONGUE!
THEY MUST BE PERVERTS!
SILLY BOYS-- DON'T YOU KNOW ADULTS DO A LOT MORE THAN KISS?
W-WE KNOW!
Y-YEAH, WE KNOW!
OH, SO YOU KNOW ABOUT .
AND DIDJA KNOW ..?
EEEEEEW! THEY ACTUALLY DO THAT?
Whisper! Whisper!
GROSS! GROSS!
ADULTS ARE GROSS!
WHAT ARE YOU TELLING THEM?
HEY, WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT DID WE?
QUICK! BETTER WRITE IT DOWN IN OUR JOURNALS BEFORE WE FORGET!
DON'T PUT ANYTHING IN WRITING!!
HEY, LOOK! I SEE BOATS DOWN THERE! LET'S GO!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE KIDS THESE DAYS!!
I THOUGHT THEY WERE KINDA CUTE

OKAY, NOW THE INTERROGATION BEGINS...
WHAT?
YOU SAID YOU'D ANSWER ALL MY QUESTIONS!
I DID?
STOP PLAYING DUMB!
OKAY, ASK AWAY!
A-ALL RIGHT THEN. ARE YOU REALLY THE SAME AGE AS ME?
OH, YEAH, THAT'S TRUE
I WAS BORN IN MARCH OF '78. I TOLD YOU THAT ALREADY, DIDN'T I?
THIS STUFF ABOUT YOU BEING MARRIED ...IS THAT TRUE?
DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR?
WOW! JUST LIKE IN THE SOAPS!
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER!
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO KNOW?

ARE YOU KIDDING? OF COURSE I WANT TO KNOW! IF THAT'S WHY I'M BEING STALKED BY THAT WEIRDO.
IT'S RAINING

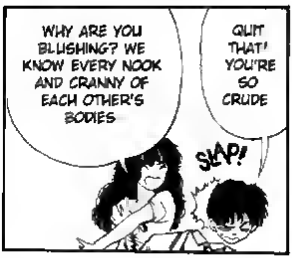
FSSSH

IT'S JUST SPRINKLING. IT'LL STOP ANY TIME NOW. SO ANYWAY...

I JUST KNEW IT WAS GOING TO RAIN.
WHAT'S THAT S'POSED TO MEAN?
FSSSHH
FSSSHH

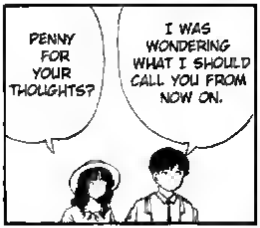
HUH?

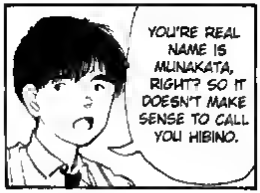
FSSSHH


WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING? WE KNOW EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF EACH OTHER'S BODIES
QUIT THAT! YOU'RE SO CRUDE
SLAP!

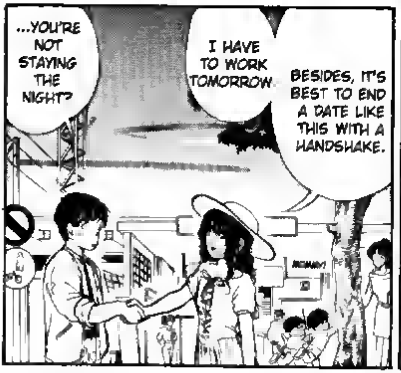
WHAT ..?
...YOU'RE PROBABLY COLD, RIGHT?
SO WARM
...
C-CAN I KI--
FSSSHH
...THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING YOU ASK
FSSSHH

WE WERE LIKE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS TODAY, HUH?
IT'S NICE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS FOR A CHANGE, ISN'T IT?
...I GUESS...


PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?
I WAS WONDERING WHAT I SHOULD CALL YOU FROM NOW ON.


YOU'RE REAL NAME IS MUNAKATA, RIGHT? SO IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO CALL YOU HIBINO.

"HIBINO" IS FINE
I WAS A MUNAKATA UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO, BUT I CHANGED IT BACK TO HIBINO
THAT WAS ALL BEFORE I MET YOU. ANYWAY



UHH...CAN I BORROW SOME MONEY FOR DINNER?
....
YOUR TOTAL IS NOW ONE MILLION 98 THOUSAND AND 251 YEN
(TSK, YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO RUIN A MOOD, DON'T YOU?

TO BE CONTINUED!!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

210 yen

SHOCKING EXCLUSIVE!!

"How I got BALD" by Suekichi Terayama (20)

Story & Art by NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by KAORU KAWAKUBO, English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Touch-up Art & Lettering by DAN NAKROSIS

ACT TWENTY

WITH AN END TO THE MONEY, AN END TO THE RELATIONSHIP

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS!

HUH?

AYA HIBINO (19) SEX FIEND!?

DEEP THOUGHTS FROM AUTHOR NAOKI YAMAMOTO

The Demise of the Straightforward Linear Plotline Initially Planned for This Series

Cooking Tips From the Pros
Tofu Salads: A Taste of Spring

Real World Exclusive
101 Ways to Protect Yourself From Crazed Females

WANT TO TRY YOUR HAND AT ACTING?
Bandaloo House Theater Troupe Seeks [illegible]!

TRUE CONFESSIONS
"The Agony of Knowing My Wife Left Me For a Younger Man"
By Bo Munakata

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THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi will inherit ¥50 million yen if he graduates. But he much prefers his work as the producer of an avant-garde theater troupe he is studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader Ms. Shimamura. At the same time Suekichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Aya—even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

The theater troupe's first performance was a rousing success, thanks to the attendance of a large audience of yakuza, but admission fell far short of covering expenses, and the other members of the troupe have all quit rather than pay their dues. Suekichi had borrowed 1 million yen from Aya to bring the troupe back from the brink of bankruptcy, but she adds to his woe at every opportunity, and the combined stress of being broke and in debt to a woman who drives him crazy (in all senses of the expression) has left his penis as bald as a cue ball. And being stalked by a man claiming to be Aya's ex-husband isn't helping any either!

On a surprisingly pleasant Sunday afternoon date Aya explained that she is divorced. But are matters really that simple?

Suekichi can't resist Aya's advances, but neither will he take responsibility for his primal urges. Is he too immature and too sexist to combine sex with love and respect?

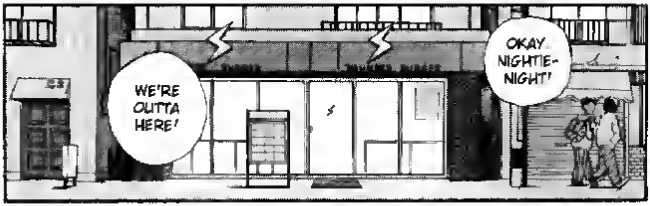
Aya is a modern woman who isn't afraid to express and act on her sexual desires. But is modern-day Japan ready for a woman who knows what she wants when she wants it how she wants it and with whom?

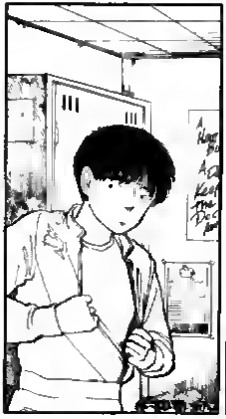
Shimamura seems awfully mild-mannered Victorian even, but she is true to her artistic vision, single-handedly having founded an avant-garde theater troupe named "Bondage Horse."

The ghost of Suekichi's deceased great-grandfather makes guest appearances at inconvenient moments.

The lawyer responsible for making sure the terms of the Terayama inheritance are honored is stubbornly loyal to his late employer's wishes and deeply disapproves of his young charge's dalliance with Aya.

This isn't a major character but we think he's cute, so we decided to add him to this line-up. Actually for all we know, this might be a picture of Aya wearing the troupe's frog mask.


WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
OKAY... NIGHTIE-NIGHT!



A GOOD DAY'S WORK, SUEKICHI--
WAH!

HERE'S YOUR MONTH'S PAY.
OH... TH-THANK YOU.

ONE MORE THING...
Uhmm... err... um

MY LATEST CREATION
I CALL IT- "TOFU VINEGAR SALAD"!
I KNEW IT

SMELLS FUNKY.
YES THAT'S WHAT GIVES IT ITS KICK

TRY IT! TRY IT!
CHOMP!
WELL? HOW IS IT?
SEE YOU LATER!
I CAN STILL TASTE IT..
ROTTEN DEFINITELY GONE BAD

YUCKO CITY
EH?
Blam!
GOOD WORK SUEKICHI!

WILL YOU QUIT SNITCHING THE TROUPE'S PROPS?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? I'VE GOTTEN FOND OF IT

HEY! THIS ISN'T NEARLY ENOUGH!
TAKE THAT DARN THING OFF!

OH WELL GUESS I'LL JUST HAFTA COLLECT THE REST OUT OF YOUR MONEY FROM HOME
SO WHEN'RE YOU GETTING YOUR ALLOWANCE?
YOU SAID I COULD PAY YOU BACK ANY TIME!

THAT WAS ONLY FOR THE FIRST 1 MILLION YEN. I NEED THE REST OF IT- THE 120 THOUSAND 382 YEN ABOVE THAT- BACK RIGHT AWAY
I HAVE LIVING EXPENSES MYSELF, YOU KNOW

I'M BORROWING YOUR TUB

WHAT?

YOU HAVE A LIFE?
HEY! WHAT'S THAT S'POSED TO MEAN?

WANNA TAKE A BATH WITH ME?
CUT IT OUT
COME ON, JOIN ME!
Y-YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO SEDUCE ME SO YOU CAN...
SO I CAN WHAT--?
SO YOU CAN STEAL MY GREAT-GRANDPA'S INHERITANCE..
IS THAT ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT? YOU'RE OBSESSED ALL I WANT IS TO TAKE A NICE HOT BATH WITH MY FAVORITE LITTLE SUEKICHI...
BUT, THE TUB'S TOO SMALL..
SO YOU DO WANT TO TAKE A BATH WITH ME
IT WAS YOUR IDEA!
OH, SO NOW YOU'RE PINNING IT ALL ON ME...
POP

GO BACK TWO PANELS ON PREVIOUS PAGE.

TH-THAT'S ENOUGH!

SO YOU DO WANT TO TAKE A BATH WITH ME.

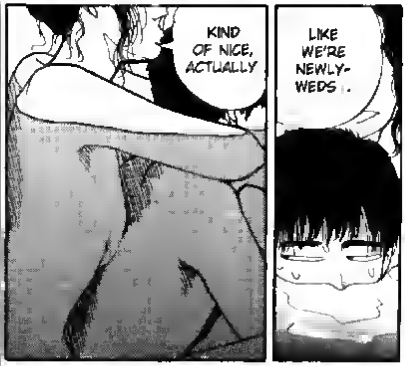
BUT THE TUB'S TOO SMALL..

WHAT? YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?

FINE. THEN GO BY YOURSELF.

LIKE WE'RE NEWLY-WEDS.

KIND OF NICE, ACTUALLY



TOLD YOU SO.

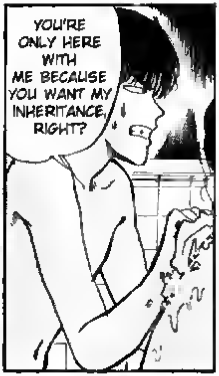
WOW-- IT'S PRETTY TIGHT IN HERE.

SPLOOSH

O-OF COURSE IT'S UP.

OH IT'S UP.

SMACK!


YOU'RE ONLY HERE WITH ME BECAUSE YOU WANT MY INHERITANCE, RIGHT?

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. YOU'RE ONLY HERE WITH ME BECAUSE YOU WANT SEX, RIGHT?

HEH...
.....

...

WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT IT? OH, BUT THEN YOU'D LOOK LIKE A SEX FIEND. SO YOU'RE TRYING TO PUT A BETTER SPIN ON IT. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SUEKICHI?

THAT'S OKAY. THERE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A REASON.

ARE YOU DOING IT FOR NO REASON TOO THEN, AYA?

I'M DOING IT BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, SUEKICHI
WHY?
YOU DON'T NEED A REASON TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY.
AHHH...
I NEED TO...
...PEE!
OHH...
LET'S DO IT AFTER WE GET OUT.

AHH!
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
SPLISH
HUNH ...?

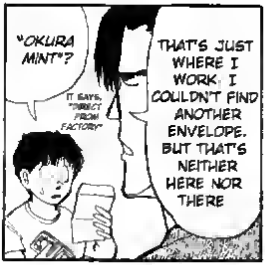
PLOP
I'm off to work! Aya
PS I'm borrowing the frog!
Turn page
Bye!
Bill for Breakfast.
423 yen
(incl. tax + tip)
See ↗ table!
AIIEE!!!
I'VE BEEN MAKING MYSELF AT HOME
H-HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?
I BORROWED SOME BAND-AIDS.
WHEN I ARRIVED, AYA WAS JUST COMING DOWN THE STAIRS ON HER WAY TO WORK...
YOU TOLD ME YOU NEVER WANTED TO SEE HER AGAIN. YET YOU HAD SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH HER LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL, UH...

WITH MY WIFE!!
SH-SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS DIVORCED!
SHLP!

A DIVORCE ISN'T FINAL UNTIL BOTH PARTIES AGREE TO IT!!!

OKURA MINT
HERE.. TAKE THIS.

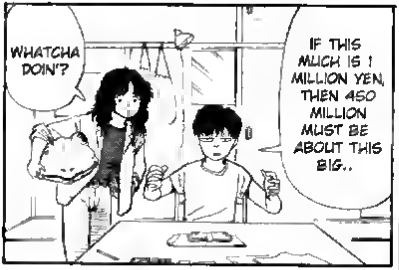
AND THIS IS...?
1 MILLION YEN. THAT'S WHAT YOU OWE AYA, CORRECT?


"OKURA MINT"?
IT SAYS, "DIRECT FROM FACTORY"
THAT'S JUST WHERE I WORK. I COULDN'T FIND ANOTHER ENVELOPE. BUT THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE

SO YOU'RE SAYING I SHOULD GIVE THIS 1 MILLION TO AYA AND THEN I WON'T EVER HAVE TO SEE HER AGAIN

GOOD WE UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER
BUT THEN I'LL BE IN DEBT TO YOU!!
WELL..
I'LL BE OFF THEN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY ME BACK
WHAT I MEAN IS.
THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A "PAY-OFF"
BUT..
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT?
EVEN IF WE DO SPLIT UP.. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK AYA WILL GO BACK TO YOU?
THAT'S BETWEEN ME AND HER
IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU ANY-MORE

WHEW! ANOTHER HARD DAY'S WORK!
SO-- DIDJA GET YOUR ALLOWANCE YET?


WHATCHA DOIN'?
IF THIS MUCH IS 1 MILLION YEN, THEN 450 MILLION MUST BE ABOUT THIS BIG..

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, 1 MILLION YEN..?

URA MINT

WHAT'S THIS?
CAN'T YOU TELL? IT'S 1 MILLION YEN

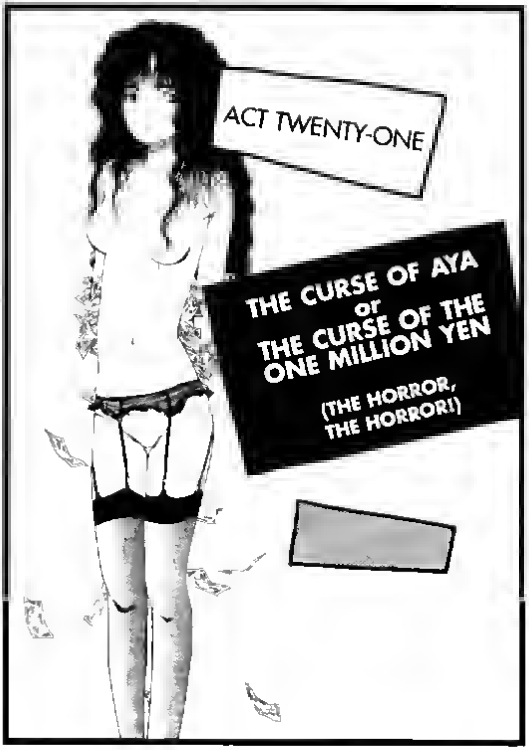
OHO! IT'S HIM, ISN'T IT? HE CAME UP HERE AND .
I THOUGHT I DROVE HIM OFF
WELL, THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT GOES...
WHAT'S THIS "THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT GOES" CRAP? AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO BE TAKING MONEY FROM STRANGERS?
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! THE BOTTOM LINE IS YOU ONLY WANT ME FOR MY INHERITANCE AND I ONLY WANT YOU FOR YOUR BODY.
SO...

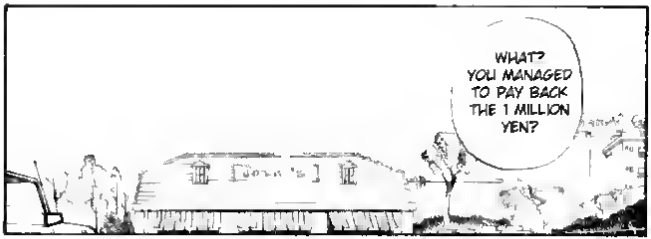
LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS PSEUDO-RELATIONSHIP AND STOP USING EACH OTHER.

THERE'S EXACTLY 1 MILLION YEN. NO INTEREST, LIKE WE AGREED, RIGHT? I'LL PAY THE REST WHEN I GET MY MONEY FROM HOME.

HUH?
SMACK!!

IDIOT!! SON OF A BITCH!!
BUTTHEAD !!
SLAMM!
EVEN TO AN IDIOT LIKE ME
IT SEEMED PRETTY LIKELY THAT AYA WOULD NEVER COME BACK

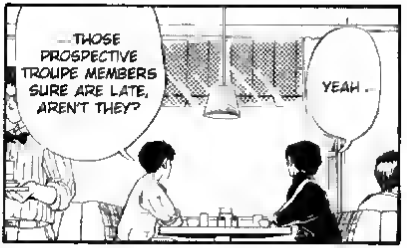

ACT TWENTY-ONE
THE CURSE OF AYA
or
THE CURSE OF THE
ONE MILLION YEN
(THE HORROR,
THE HORROR!)


WHAT? YOU MANAGED TO PAY BACK THE 1 MILLION YEN?

ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE TO PAY HER BACK ANYMORE...
WHAT D'YOU MEAN?

WELL.. LET'S JUST SAY WE WORKED SOMETHING OUT..

SO EVERYTHING TURNED OUT OKAY, HUH?
THAT'S HOW IT GOES


—THOSE PROSPECTIVE TROUPE MEMBERS SURE ARE LATE, AREN'T THEY?
YEAH.

WELL, THE DEBT'S PAID OFF (IT SEEMS), AND HIBINO'S REALLY LEFT FOR GOOD (IT SEEMS).
I'M STILL BALD, THOUGH.

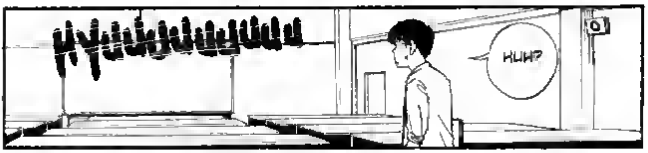
NOW ALL THAT'S MISSING IS—
PLOP!

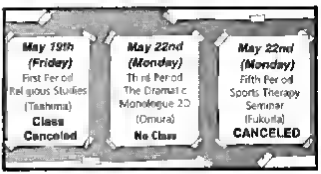
...A LOVE INTEREST?
YEAH, RIGHT..

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FABULOUS IDEA.

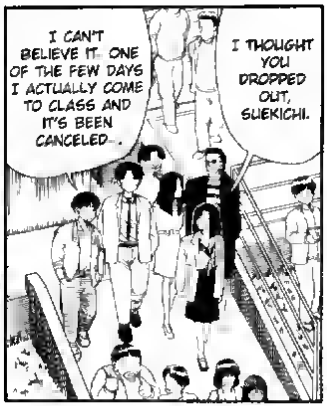
LONG TIME NO SEE.
OH
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?
OH, NOT LONG
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE ME?
WELL, I'VE BEEN SPACING OUT A LOT THESE DAYS. TALKING TO MYSELF AND THINGS LIKE THAT...
BEGGING YOUR PARDON... BUT I WAS UNAWARE THAT YOU WERE INDEBTED TO THAT WOMAN.
OH, THAT... THAT WAS NOTHING. I PAID HER OFF EASILY.
CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
HUH?
THEN ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.
ALL YOU NEED DO NOW IS ATTEND COLLEGE, GRADUATE, AND COLLECT THE TERAYAMA INHERITANCE.
UH, SURE.
YOU SAY YOU RETURNED HER MONEY, CORRECT?
OH. WELL, YES.
SO YOU'RE COMPLETELY THROUGH WITH THAT WOMAN, CORRECT?
YES... COMPLETELY.

SOME-THING THE MATTER...?
YOU WOULDN'T BY ANY CHANCE HAVE ANY UNRESOLVED FEELINGS FOR A WOMAN LIKE THAT, WOULD YOU?
N-NO, NONE WHATSO-EVER...
NOOP!
IF YOU HAVE YET TO DINE, WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME FOR SUPPER?
THAT WOULD BE GREAT.
HAVE YOU BEEN ATTENDING CLASSES?
Chak!
YEAH. THINGS ARE COMING ALONG LITTLE BY LITTLE.
IT'S BEEN ALMOST A MONTH SINCE AYA LEFT.


HUH?

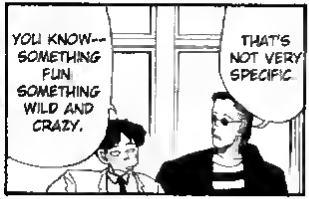

May 19th (Friday)
First Period
Religious Studies (Tashima)
Class Canceled
May 22nd (Monday)
Third Period
The Dramatic Monologue 2.0 (Omura)
No Class
May 22nd (Monday)
Fifth Period
Sports Therapy Seminar (Fukuda)
CANCELED

HEY THERE!
WHERE YA BEEN?


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. ONE OF THE FEW DAYS I ACTUALLY COME TO CLASS AND IT'S BEEN CANCELED...
I THOUGHT YOU DROPPED OUT, SUEKICHI.

I'M BORED. LET'S DO SOMETHING FUN.
"SOMETHING FUN"?

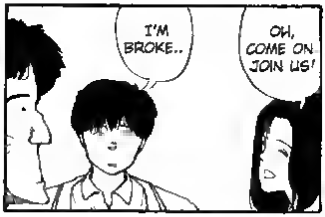
YOU'RE IN THE THEATER, RIGHT, SUEKICHI?
HUH?
YEAH, KIND OF...


YOU KNOW--SOMETHING FUN, SOMETHING WILD AND CRAZY.
THAT'S NOT VERY SPECIFIC

HAVE YOU QUIT ACTING?
WELL, I'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY. I'M KINDA ON HIATUS.

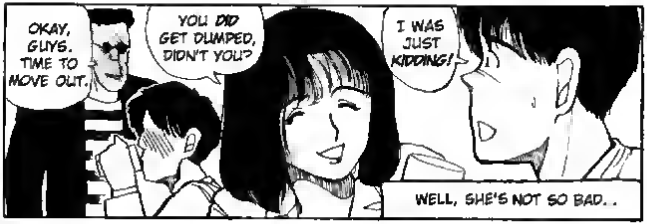
HOW ABOUT WE GO OUT DRINKING THEN?
HEY, GREAT IDEA!

WANNA COME, SUEKICHI?
HUH?


I'M BROKE..
OH, COME ON, JOIN US!

BUT I'LL GO...
NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'

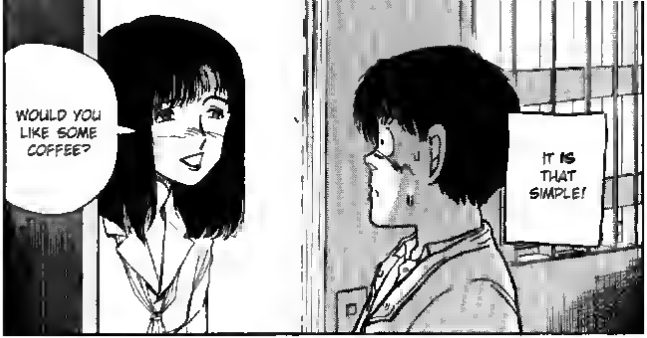
HAVE ANOTHER, GEKOBA.
OOH, BUT I CAN'T . I'VE GOT A LOW TOLERANCE.
WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST HAVE SOME SODA THEN?
BEING IN AN ACTING TROUPE MUST BE INTENSE, HUH?
W-WELL, KIND OF..
WHAT'S THIS?
IS IT POSSIBLE SHE'S BEING SO FRIENDLY BECAUSE
YOU QUIT COMING TO CLASSES FOR A WHILE, DIDN'T YOU?
I GAVE UP WOMEN TO PURSUE MY HIGHER EDUCATION.
.. SHE'S ACTUALLY ATTRACTED TO ME?
OH-- SO YOU GOT DUMPED?
I WAS JOKING.
YEAH-- IN MY DREAMS!
BUT STILL.
MAYBE ..

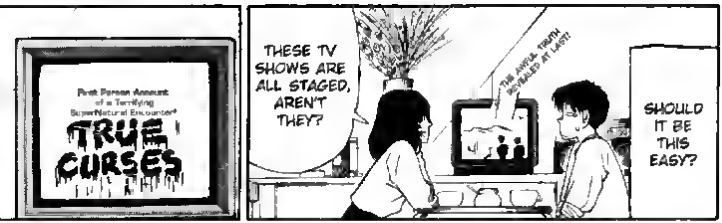

OKAY, GUYS. TIME TO MOVE OUT.
YOU DID GET DUMPED, DIDN'T YOU?
I WAS JUST KIDDING!
WELL, SHE'S NOT SO BAD..

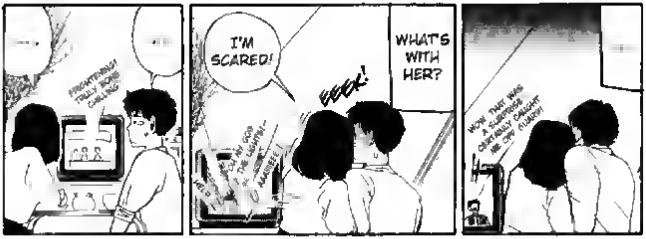
OH...
WE'RE GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, AREN'T WE?

THOSE GUYS MADE ME DRINK SO MUCH--
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
AREN'T THEY TOO AWFUL?
WAIT!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SORRY, I'M KINDA TIPSHY... OOPS!
WON'T YOUR FOLKS BE WORRIED?
NAW, I LIVE BY MYSELF ...
WELL, GOOD NIGHT
WAIT!
HOW ABOUT SOME COFFEE?
IF ONLY IT WERE THAT SIMPLE ...


WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE?
IT IS THAT SIMPLE!


First Person Account of a Terrifying Supernatural Encounter!
TRUE CURSES
THESE TV SHOWS ARE ALL STAGED, AREN'T THEY?
THE ANGLE, TRUTH REVEALED AT LAST!
SHOULD IT BE THIS EASY?


FRIGHTENING! TRULY MORE CHILLING
I'M SCARED!
EEEK!
WHAT'S WITH HER?
NOW THAT WAS A SURPRISE CUT! REALLY CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD!

SQUEEZE
MAYBE IT'S JUST IN THE STARS FOR ME TO SCORE WITH WOMEN.
OR THE WILL OF THE WRITER
THIS IS REAL TV...

PULP

I-I'M SORRY...

TH-THIS WAS NEVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE...
W-WITH ALL THE ALCOHOL STILL IN MY SYSTEM, YOU KNOW...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. ALL THE BOOKS SAY THE MALE PSYCHE IS DELICATE

THE STORY OF HER EX LASTED EXACTLY 2 HOURS AND 37 MINUTES.
"EXACTLY?" WHATEVER.
AND THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN SO TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY LONELY...
SO NOW YOU KNOW..
...I SEE...
NOW TELL ME YOUR STORY.
HUH?
MY STORY ISN'T ABOUT A GIRLFRIEND... JUST SOMETHING I KIND OF STUMBLED INTO...
NOTHING WORTH TALKING ABOUT.
SHEESH, WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?
BUT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FORGET HER, HAVE YOU?
SURE I HAVE I DON'T DWELL ON THINGS LIKE THAT.
IT WAS JUST A
THEN IS IT...
.. LIKE A CURSE!?
YOU MEAN LIKE IN THAT TV SHOW?

PULP
MAYBE IT'S NOT THAT YOU CAN'T FORGET HER, BUT THAT PART OF HER STILL LINGERS ON...
SOMEHOW... SHE ALWAYS SEEMS SOMEWHERE NEAR YOU...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT...
BUT I DO STILL HAVE THE 1 MILLION YEN. COME TO THINK ABOUT IT...
WHAT?
OH, NOTHING. I BETTER GET GOING
IS IT SOMETHING I SAID?
NAWW... I JUST HAVE AN EARLY MORNING
THANKS FOR THE COFFEE
THE TRAINS AREN'T RUNNING YET
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL FLY
ROOOOOOAAAARR
(YEAH, RIGHT?)
KAW KAW
KAW KAW
HYUUUUUUU

BECAUSE OF WHAT GEKOBA SAID, I KEEP HAVING THESE WEIRD THOUGHTS...
I CAN'T GET IT UP.
I'M STILL BALD.
AND I FEEL MORE AND MORE DEPRESSED.

KIDS, DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

RATTL
RATTL
I THOUGHT I'D PUT ALL THAT BEHIND ME.

OH. THE WIND
RTTLRTTL

BAMM

RTTL
RTTL RTTL
RTTL

WHOOOOSHH

AAAAGHH!!
WOOO

TO BE CONTINUED...

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by KAORI KAWAKUBO
English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT TWENTY-TWO
A PHANTOM AYA BY MY SIDE

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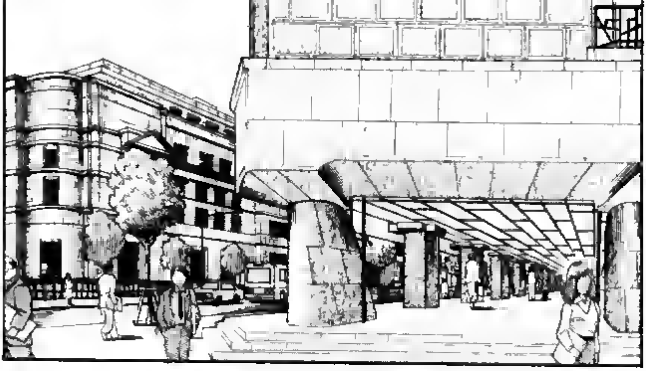
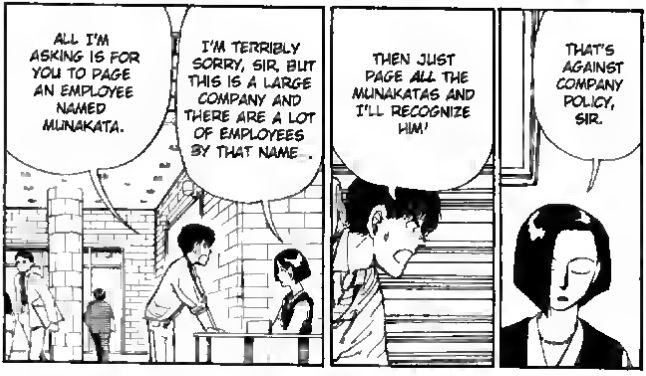
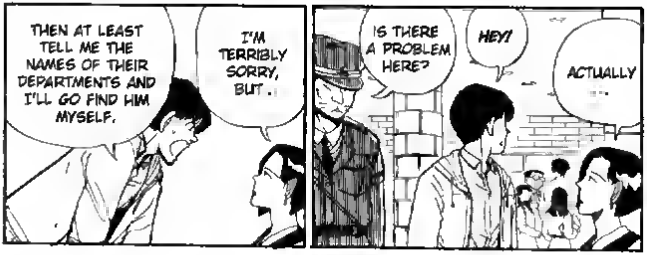
THE STORY THUS FAR...
College student Suskichi will inherit 450 million yen if he graduates. But he much prefers his work as the producer of an avant-garde theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader, Ms. Shimamura. At the same time, Suskichi can't resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Aya—even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.
Recently Suskichi borrowed one million yen from Aya to bring the troupe back from the brink of bankruptcy. Her pesky ex-husband provided the money to pay her back in exchange for Suskichi's promise to stay away from his ex-wife. And when Suskichi offered Aya the money, she stormed out of his apartment, never to return.
But things just haven't been the same since.




ALL I'M ASKING IS FOR YOU TO PAGE AN EMPLOYEE NAMED MUNAKATA.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR, BUT THIS IS A LARGE COMPANY AND THERE ARE A LOT OF EMPLOYEES BY THAT NAME...
THEN JUST PAGE ALL THE MUNAKATAS AND I'LL RECOGNIZE HIM!
THAT'S AGAINST COMPANY POLICY, SIR.

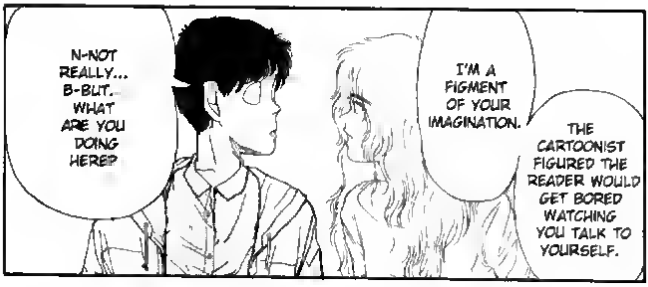

THEN AT LEAST TELL ME THE NAMES OF THEIR DEPARTMENTS AND I'LL GO FIND HIM MYSELF.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT...
IS THERE A PROBLEM HERE?
HEY!
ACTUALLY...

I NEED AYA'S ADDRESS!
YOU'RE MY LAST HOPE, MR. MUNAKATA!
HEY YOU!
OH...
MR MUNA-KATA!
HEY, YOU! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
YOU'RE CAUSING A DISTURB-ANCE.
AND TAKE THIS. I'M RETURNING IT TO YOU. I UNTIED THE STRING, BUT
THE WHOLE 1 MILLION YEN IS THERE.
FOR GOD'S SAKE! NOT HERE, OKAY?
HOW'D YOU FIGURE OUT WHERE I WORKED? YOU'RE A CLEVER ONE
TEMPURA, PLEASE
RAMEN WITH SOY SAUCE, PLEASE
ACTUALLY, THE ADDRESS WAS ON THE ENVELOPE...

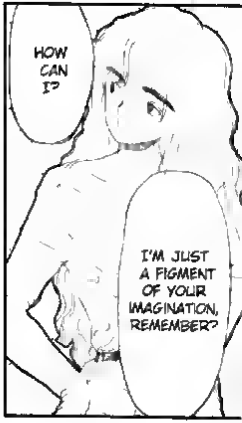
ANY-WAY.
I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS.
AT LEAST TELL ME HOW TO CONTACT AYA!
WHY DO YOU NEED THAT INFORMATION?
THANKS FOR WAITING
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ACCEPT THE MONEY, THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO GIVE IT TO AYA.
IT'S YOUR MONEY NOW.
I'VE DONE A LITTLE INVESTIGATING OF MY OWN. APPARENTLY AYA DOESN'T VISIT YOU ANYMORE
JUST TAKE IT THINK OF IT AS A BRIBE.
BUT... I CAN'T DO THAT
WHY NOT?
FEELINGS? FEH! WHAT DO FEELINGS HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
BUT IF YOU ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT FEELINGS, WHAT ABOUT SHOWING SOME CONSIDERATION FOR MINE? HERE I AM, FRANTICALLY TRYING TO GET BACK THE WIFE WHO LEFT ME.
BECAUSE OF HOW I FEEL

PULP
SO PLEASE DON'T TRY TO CONTACT ME ANYMORE I'M A BUSY MAN.
YOU SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING MORE PRODUCTIVE WITH YOUR LIFE THAN SKIRT CHASING
SO AYA HASN'T GONE BACK TO YOU, HAS SHE?
LOOK WHO'S TALKING. YOU'RE SKIRT CHASING YOURSELF
AYA WILL COME BACK
NO
I HAVE NO DOUBT SHE WILL RETURN TO ME
TOKEN
EH?
1 MILLION YEN.
.....

GUESS I'LL WALK.
WHY DID THAT STUPID SOBA PLACE HAVE TO CHARGE 500 YEN FOR A BOWL OF RAMEN?
NOW WHAT?
I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE LEADS..
GIVING UP ALREADY?


N-NOT REALLY... B-BUT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION.
THE CARTOONIST FIGURED THE READER WOULD GET BORED WATCHING YOU TALK TO YOURSELF.

DOES YOUR FACE REALLY LOOK LIKE THAT?
YOUR MEMORY IS PROBABLY FADING 'CAUSE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ME FOR A MONTH.


HOW CAN I?
I'M JUST A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION, REMEMBER?

SO TELL ME THEN... WHERE ARE YOU?
AND BY THE WAY-- WHEN ARE YOU GONNA RETURN THAT FROG MASK!? WHERE DO YOU WORK, ANYWAY, WHERE YOU HAVE A USE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

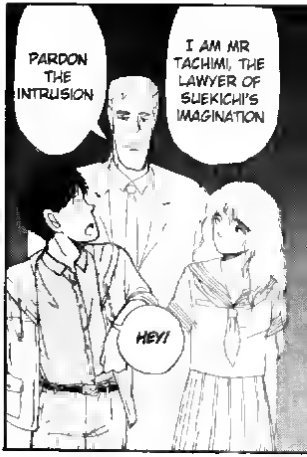
NOT ANSWER-ING.

THAT MAN WAS TALKIN' TO HIMSELF!
MUTTER MUTTER
D-DON'T STARE, DEAR!
WHAT A WEIRDO

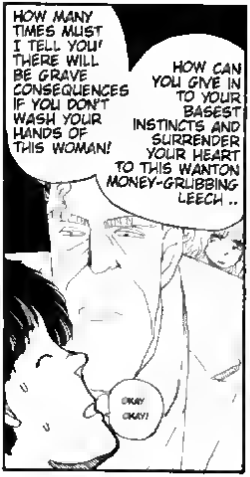
SO WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEE ME? TO APOLOGIZE, PERHAPS? HMM?
NO REASON IN PARTI-CULAR...
DO YOU MISS ME?
ARE YOU GOING TO PROFESS YOUR UNDYING LOVE TO ME?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL LIKE IF I LET THIS GO, I'LL HAVE A 1 MILLION YEN WEIGHT ON MY SHOULDERS FOREVER.
GEEZ. YOU TAKE EVERYTHING TOO SERIOUSLY--- THAT'S WHY YOU'RE BALD.
TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS, YOU KNOW.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE THIS IS A SIGN THAT YOU'RE GROWING UP...
SO HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HANDLE THIS?

SIGH.


PARDON THE INTRUSION
I AM MR TACHIMI, THE LAWYER OF SUEKICHI'S IMAGINATION
HEY!

I GOT BORED! SO I CHANGED MY COSTUME.
W-WHY IS A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION TALKING ABOUT THINGS I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT?
THESE ARE THOUGHTS FROM THE DEPTHS OF YOUR HEART, SUEKICHI!


HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU! THERE WILL BE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES IF YOU DON'T WASH YOUR HANDS OF THIS WOMAN!
HOW CAN YOU GIVE IN TO YOUR BASEST INSTINCTS AND SURRENDER YOUR HEART TO THIS WANTON MONEY-GRUBBING LEECH ..
OKAY OKAY!

RELAX THAT'S AS IT SHOULD BE.
HEY!
I'M THE IMAGINARY MUNAKATA. C'MON, AYA LET'S GO HOME.

I'M THE IMAGINARY IKEZU. YOU CAN'T BE CHASING WOMEN AROUND ALL THE TIME THE TROUPE NEEDS YOU!
I-I'M KIND OF BUSY RIGHT NOW
HEY! LEGGO!

THIS IS YOUR IMAGINARY PROFESSOR WITH YOUR ROTTEN ATTENDANCE I CAN'T GIVE YOU CREDIT FOR THE COURSE
THIS IS YOUR IMAGINARY MOM HOW'S EVERYTHING GOING SON?
IMAGINARY SHIMOMURA HERE HOW'S THE TROUPE RECRUITING GOING?
I HAVEN'T APPEARED IN THIS MANGA YET!
YOUR IMAGINARY SUPERVISOR, HERE I'VE CREATED A NEW DISH TRY IT! TRY IT!
THIS IS YOUR IMAGINARY LANDLORD YOUR RENT IS OVERDUE
IMAGINARY GREAT GRANDPA HERE COULD YOU MOVE OVER A BIT HON?
IMAGINARY FRIEND HERE. LET'S GO DRINKING. WHAT? YOU'RE BROKE!?
IMAGINARY GOKOBA HERE! REMEMBER? FROM THE LAST M

AAAAAR-RRGGHH !!!!!
SHUT UP!!

OOP

OH GEEZ WHERE AM I?
I-I'M LOST
SHEESH
HUH?..
THIS SHOPPING DISTRICT LOOKS..
..FAMILIAR SOMEHOW..
THIS IS WHERE..
..I SAW HER THAT TIME!
AYA !!

WHAT TH--?
:RRUBB RRUBB:

MAYBE I'M JUST TIRED...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE SHOPPING DISTRICTS IN SETAGAYAKU ALL LOOK THE SAME ..
SO STOP SKIRT CHASING ALREADY, WILL YA?
I DON'T NEED THIS IMAGINARY STUFF ANY-MORE ..
KAW KAW
BUT HE'S RIGHT ...
I'M GOING TO REDIRECT THIS ENERGY INTO THE THEATER!!
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT..
BYE-BYE
WHAT?
HUH?
Shoja Private Preschool

VVROOOM!
Shuga Private Preschool
VVROOOM!
tumpa tumpa tumpa
IDIOT!
SCREECCH
ANYONE WHO RUNS AFTER A PRESCHOOL BUS HAS GOTTA BE A BAT GUY
YEAH.
MAYBE IT'S VEGETA!
NO, WAIT! IT MIGHT BE THE SLIMER!
HEY, THAT IDIOT'S FOLLOWIN' US!
THE IDIOT IS RUNNIN' AFTER THE BUS!
IT'S AN IDIOT!
AN IDIOT!
VVROOOMM!
Shuga Private Preschool

Shiga Prod.
SCREECH!!
GI...
huff
huff!
GIVE THAT BACK.

THE TROUPE NEEDS THAT PROP!
HEY IS THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND MISS AYA?
WHAT A DORK!

AWW IT AIN'T VEGETA.
THAT'S PROBABLY HIS FEMALE FRIEND.
IS THERE GONNA BE ONE OF THOSE CHEESY LOVE SCENES NOW?
ARE THEY GONNA KISS? ARE THEY GONNA KISS?
THE SPELL IS BROKEN.
AND THE FROG IS TRANSFORMED INTO A PRINCESS..
YOU DON'T SEE ME FOR A MONTH AND THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF!?

TO BE CONTINUED!!

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by KAORI KAWAKUBO
English Adaptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
Lettering & TouchUp Art by DAN NAKROSIS
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DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT-EVENT THREE!
NEW SUMMER LOOK

THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen if he graduates. But he much prefers his work with an avant-garde theater troupe to studying—perhaps because he has a big crush on the troupe's dedicated leader Ms. Shimamura. At the same time, Suekichi hasn't been able to resist the seductive charms of a mysterious young woman named Aya—even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

Suekichi borrowed one million yen from Aya to bring the troupe back from the brink of bankruptcy. Her jealous ex-husband gave Suekichi the sum to pay off the loan, in exchange for Suekichi's promise to stay away from his ex-wife forever.

But things have gone from bad to worse for Suekichi since Aya stormed out of his apartment never to return...and he has been searching the city high and low for her. Now he has just chased down the school bus he saw her boarding.

OOH, SHOCKER!
MISS AYA-- ARE YOU GOING TO MARRY THIS DUDE?
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR STOPPING THE BUS.
OH, NO PROBLEM...
DID WE CAUSE A TRAFFIC HAZARD?
VRRMMM
BYE-BYE!
YOUNG MAN.
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY!
GOT THAT?
IF ANYONE MAKES HER CRY AGAIN, EVEN IF THE HEAVENS FORGIVE HIM, I WON'T!
AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, MISS AYA IS AN UNLUCKY WOMAN WHO HAS TRAVELED DOWN A RIVER OF TEARS.

WASN'T THAT ROMANTIC? JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES!
SO, WHAT BASE ARE YOU TWO UP TO? FIRST? SECOND ..?
LADIES WE'RE AT WORK SOSSIPING IS...
HOME RUN

WHAT!? BUT YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST OF US ALL AND JUST DIVORCED..
HOW DARE YOU DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN!
OH! I SEE!
SHAME ON YOU
HOME RUN

GO SIT WITH HIM. HE LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE
SHUV!
THANKS

WHAT?

THANKS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THANKS"?
RUNNING AFTER A KINDER-GARTEN BUS LIKE SOME FOOL.

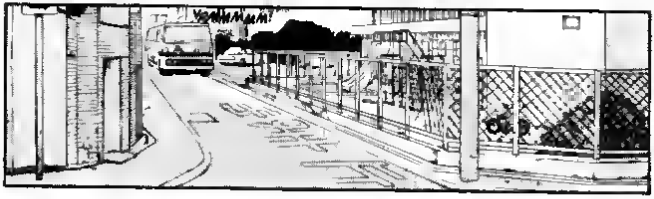
I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED YOU WERE A KINDER-GARTEN TEACHER.
YEAH, GO FIGURE.
...
ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANNA KNOW?
IS THAT YOUR NEW SUMMER LOOK?
THIS?
I CUT IT OUT OF HEART-BREAK.
YEAH, RIGHT.
IT'S TRUE.
YOU HEARING THIS BULL?
I CUT HER HAIR!
YOU WEREN'T GOING TO TOSS THAT FROG MASK INTO THE LAKE OR ANYTHING, WERE YOU?
I EVEN TRIED OUT FOR THIS "BROKEN HEARTS BUS TOUR" THEY WERE ADVERTISING ON TV.
DIDN'T GET PICKED, THOUGH.
GROWN-UPS ARE ALL LIARS.

WHY'D YOU RUN AFTER THE BUS?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS OVER
WHY'D YOU MAKE THE BUS DRIVER STOP?
MISS YA! I GOTTA

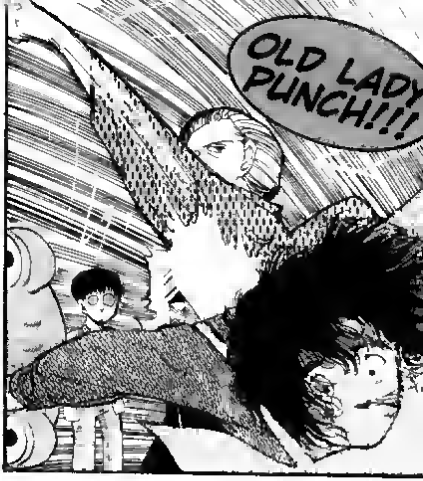
WHEN YOU WERE RUNNING AFTER THE BUS...?
YOU LOOKED LIKE A TOTAL DORK!

THANKS A LOT.

heh!


Vroommm!

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I'VE BEEN DYING TO ASK, BUT...
YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO PLAY DUMB AGAIN, ANYWAY.
'BOUT WHAT?
RETURN THE FROG!
BUT THE KIDS LOVE IT!
WHAT?
I JUST CAN'T GET OVER YOU BEING A KINDERGARTEN TEACHER...
I'D SAY YOU'RE THE KID
WELL, GET OVER IT, ALREADY.
HUH?


OLD LADY PUNCH!!!

tumpa tumpa
POOP

AYA!
Waaa!!

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
TH-THAT...

..MOTHER!
..WAS MUNA-KATA'S

I AM RIGHTEOU
AS FOR MY NARUHITO...
STAY OUT OF HIS LIFE!!

YOU'RE FULL OF IT, YOU WITCH! HOW DARE YOU HARRASS ME AT MY WORKPLACE...
YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE NARU IS THE ONE WHO'S BEEN STALKING ME!
I LEARNED ALL OF MY YAKUZA TACTICS..
SAW
...FROM YOU, MY DEAR!

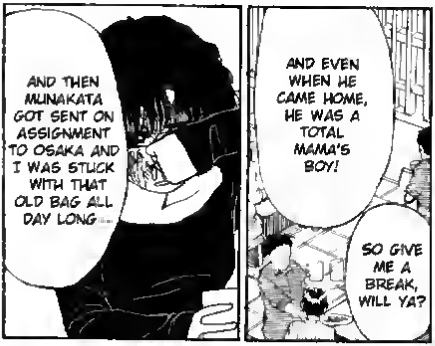
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE BLABBERING ABOUT, YOU OLD HAG!
NOW HOLD ON...
UNLIKE YOU, MY NARUHITO IS SENSITIVE, HE'S VERY HURT.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET THE LIKES OF YOU GET YOUR CLAWS INTO HIM AGAIN.
YOU'RE LOOKING MEANER THAN A JUNKYARD DOG. THAT'S YOUR NEXT VICTIM, I PRESUME?

WELL...
I'LL BE OFF, THEN.
HEY!
KONK!
BONK!
THAT WAS ONE ORNERY OLD LADY!
SHE'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE DEVIL IN-LAWS ON THE JERRY SPRINGER SHOW!

sniff!
sniff!
SOB SOB
sniff!

SHE PROMISED SHE WOULDN'T BUTT INTO OUR MARRIAGE BUT RIGHT AFTER THE WEDDING SHE DID A 180 AND MOVED IN WITH US!
I'M NOT SAYING THAT I OBJECTED TO LIVING TOGETHER.
BUT..
JUST DO IT SAKE AND TEARS ARE CLOSE COMPANIONS
LET HER CLEANSE HER HEART WITH DRINK
POUR ME 'NOTHER!!

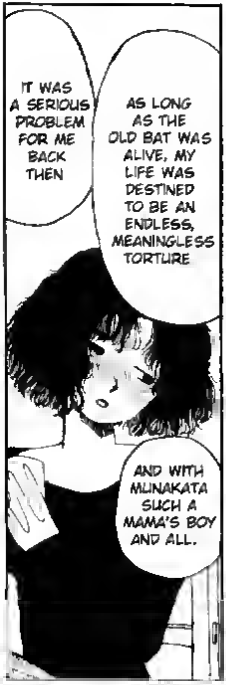
"SOB"
GULP GULP
AND YOU ARE--?
I FEEL HER PAIN
I'M JUST AN EAVES-DROPPING DRUNK.


AND THEN MUNAKATA GOT SENT ON ASSIGNMENT TO OSAKA AND I WAS STUCK WITH THAT OLD BAG ALL DAY LONG...
AND EVEN WHEN HE CAME HOME, HE WAS A TOTAL MAMA'S BOY!
SO GIVE ME A BREAK, WILL YA?

HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING? I'M SPILLING MY GUTS LIKE YOU ALWAYS WANTED
I'M LISTEN-ING, I'M LISTEN-ING.

SO YOU DIVORCED MUNAKATA OVER YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW.
YEAH YOUR BASIC TALK SHOW STAPLE

DISAPPOINTED 'CAUSE IT'S SUCH A CLICHÉ?
DIDJA THINK MY STORY WOULD REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE OR SOMETHIN'?
WELL, NOT REALLY, BUT...


IT WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR ME BACK THEN
AS LONG AS THE OLD BAT WAS ALIVE, MY LIFE WAS DESTINED TO BE AN ENDLESS, MEANINGLESS TORTURE
AND WITH MUNAKATA SUCH A MAMA'S BOY AND ALL.

I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT SO I RAN OFF
THINK I COPPED OUT?

NO, I DON'T IT'S HARD TO FOLLOW THE PATH YOU'VE SET FOR YOURSELF, BUT
IT'S EVEN HARDER TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU CHOSE THE WRONG PATH THAT REALLY TAKES GUTS

GLARE
WHAT? DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
MAYBE I'M A LITTLE DRUNK

SUEKICHI, YOU'RE THE GREATEST!

WITH PLEASURE!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
WHERE'S MY BEER?
PRE-PAY DAY...
I FORGOT
BLIP! BLIP BLIP!
WHAT--? I DON'T EVEN HAVE TRAIN FARE!
YOU'VE GOT MORE'N ENOUGH
3,914 YEN, PLEASE
BUT IF WE USE THIS MONEY... I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO MUNAKATA NEVER TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
WHAT'RE YOU BABBLIN' ABOUT?
HEY!
WHAP!
WHAT'S THIS? WHERE'D THIS 1 MILLION YEN COME FROM? SOME DOOFUS MUST'VE DROPPED IT. PROB'LY DIRTY MONEY
NOW HOLD ON
SO WE CAN USE IT WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE
KEEP THE CHANGE!
NOW WE'RE LIVIN'!
THANK YOU!
ARE YOU SURE..?

YOU DRANK TOO MUCH.
BLAAAAAGH!
I'M FINE
YOU WANT MORE!?
AFTER SEEING THAT HAG AGAIN, I CAME TO A REALIZATION ..
THERE REALLY ARE EVIL PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD. NOT JUST IN THE SOAPS.
YOU JUST FIGURED THAT OUT?
I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY FOR ONE THING, THOUGH.
WHUZZAT?
IT'S PARTLY MY FAULT SHE'S SO PISSED OFF
IZZAT SO?

I'M SORRY
NOT FOR-GIVEN.
NOT FOR-GIVEN?
LEMME PUNCH YOU.
EVERYONE'S BEEN POUNDING ON ME ALL DAY AND I NEED TO GET MY AGGRESSIONS OUT!
WELL, OKAY, I GUESS...
GO AHEAD.
BITE DOWN HARD...
.....

HAVEN'T YOU CRIED IT ALL OUT YET?
I'M SO UPSET...
There, There
IT'S N-NOT BECAUSE OF THE THINGS SHE SAID.
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE I BROKE DOWN LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF HER...
SOB! SOB! shniff! shniff!
WHAT WOULD COMFORT YOU?
LET'S DO IT!!
1 MILLION YEN'S WORTH!!
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "1 MILLION YEN'S WORTH"...?
TO BE CONTINUED!!

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT TWENTY-FOUR
A VERY, VERY LONG ORGASM

Story & Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by KAORI KAWAKUBO
English Acoptation by ANNETTE ROMAN
lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

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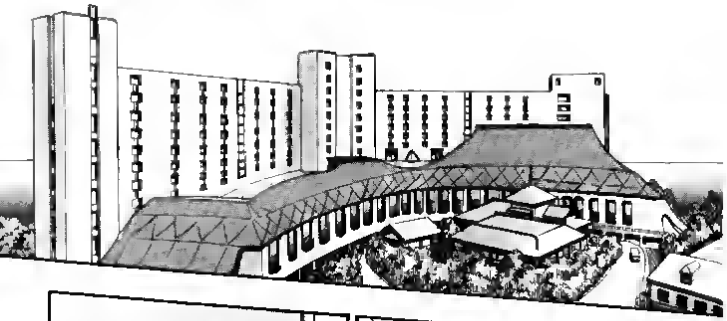
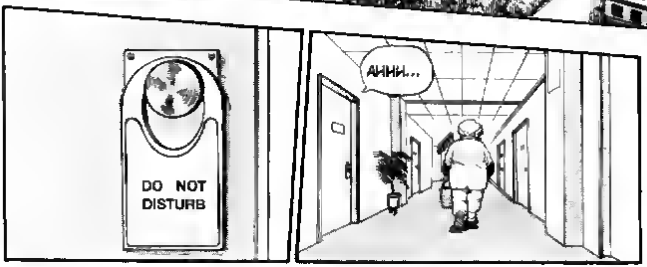
THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen [about 4.5 million dollars] at he graduates. But he keeps getting distracted from his studies, as well as his work with an avant-guard theater troupe, by a mysterious young woman named Aya—even though he suspects she is only in love with his money.

Recently Suekichi borrowed 1 million yen from Aya to bring the theater troupe back from the brink of bankruptcy. Her jealous ex-husband gave Suekichi the cash to pay off the loan in exchange for Suekichi's promise to stay away from his ex-wife forever. But Aya refused to accept the pay-off and stormed out of Suekichi's life in a jealous huff.

Now Suekichi and Aya have just been reunited after a very very long month apart and the 1 million yen are burning a hole in Suekichi's pocket.



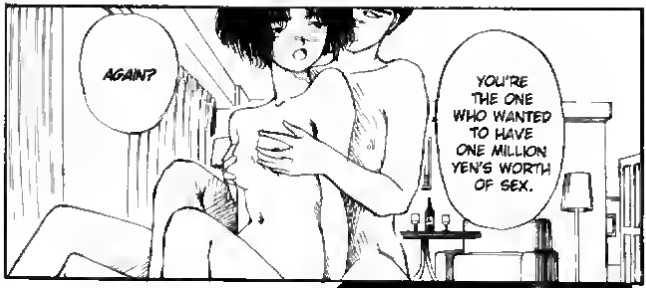

DO NOT
DISTURB
АННИ...

Ah!
Ah!

БЕЙ!

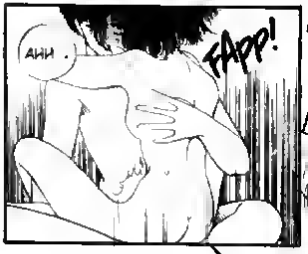
IT'S SO BRIGHT OUT!

LET'S GO OUTSIDE!
MAYBE GO FOR A SWIM...
HUH?

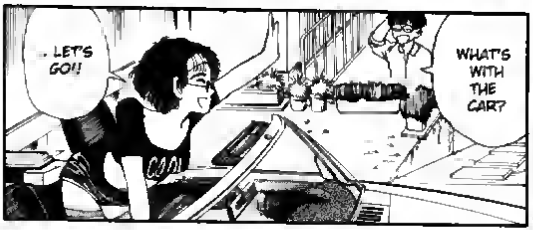

AGAIN?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO HAVE ONE MILLION YEN'S WORTH OF SEX.

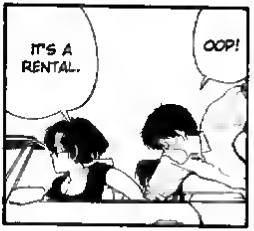
BUT WE HAVEN'T LEFT THE ROOM FOR TWO DAYS NOW!

I'M TURNING INTO JELLO.


AHH .
FAPP!

YOU'RE WET, THOUGH
YEAH, WELL...
FAPP!
FAPP!
FAPP!

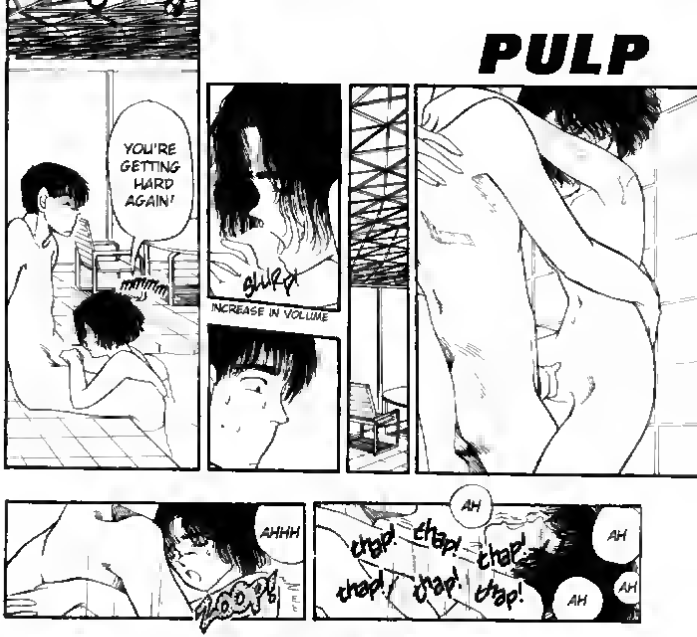




SHE LIKES WHITESNAKE BUT HAS A MERCEDES RENTAL

JUST 10,000 YEN PER DAY
DON'T BE SUCH A CHEAPSKATE. LOOK HOW MUCH DOUGH WE HAVE
I BOOKED A LUXURY SUITE FOR THREE DAYS AT A RESORT HOTEL!
WE'LL SCREW AWAY ALL OF THE ONE MILLION YEN!
BUT THAT MONEY IS...
I'M GONNA LOSE MY WIG

A ROOM WITH A POOL... HOW NICE...
PHOO
YOU DIDN'T SEEM INTO IT AT FIRST...
YEAH, I GUESS NOT. BUT THEN...
SPLASH!


YOU'RE GETTING HARD AGAIN!
mmm
glurp
INCREASE IN VOLUME
AHHH
AH
chap! chap! chap! chap! chap! chap!
AH
AH
AH
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO HORNY
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.
SO HOR..

NOW THEN--
WHERE WERE WE...?
AIIEE!
SKREECH!
VROOM!
SKREECH!
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE ROAD!
DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T DRIVEN SINCE THE DAY YOU GOT YOUR LICENSE!
I'VE JUST GOTTA CONCENTRATE, THAT'S ALL.
WITH THIS CAR, EVEN A SCRATCH WILL COST HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YEN* TO FIX.
SO WHAT?

*THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS

ARE YOU PLANNING TO SPEND THE ENTIRE 1 MILLION YEN ALL AT ONCE?
BRUT

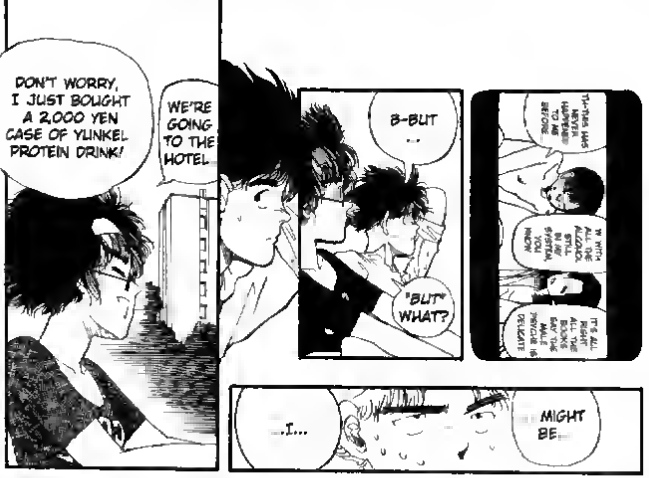
WE'LL SEE...
BUT THIS MONEY IS..

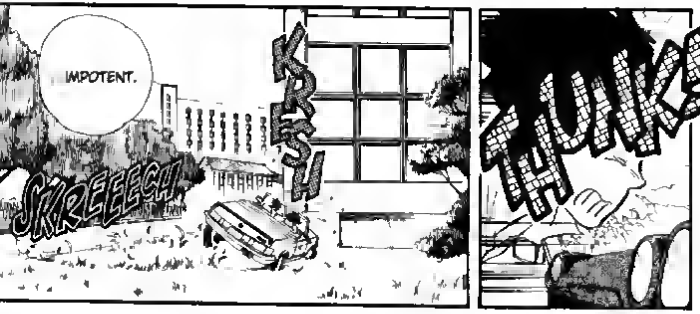
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING THAT BASTARD'S MONEY--BUT HE DOESN'T NEED IT EITHER.
THE WAY I SEE IT, THIS MONEY DOESN'T BELONG TO ANYONE.
H-HOLD ON A SEC...!

MUNAKATA'S "SEVERANCE" PAY. YOU AREN'T GOING TO ACCEPT IT, ARE YOU?
NO, BUT..
COOL

SO WE'RE JUST GONNA THROW IT BACK INTO CIRCULATION IN THE WORLD'S MONEY POOL--LIKE A FISH
THINK OF IT AS A LITTLE DONATION.
COOL

B-BUT...
...I'M A GUY I CAN ONLY DO IT SO MANY TIMES!


DON'T WORRY, I JUST BOUGHT A 2,000 YEN CASE OF YUNKEL PROTEIN DRINK!
WE'RE GOING TO THE HOTEL
B-BUT...
"BUT" WHAT?
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. ALL THE BOOKS ARE IN THE BACK. WE'LL TOTAL IT UP WHEN I GET BACK.
HEH-HEH. WHEN I'M GONE, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO SNEAK OUT ALL THE PORNO MAGS YOU WANT.
...I...
MIGHT BE...


IMPOTENT.
SKREEECH!
KRESH
THUNK!

H-HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THIS'LL COST AT LEAST 200,000 YEN!
WHAT DO I CARE NOW?

YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT BEING IMPOTENT!!
YOU THINK WE'RE JUST GONNA SIT AROUND SIPPING TEA IN A ROYAL SUITE THAT COSTS 150,000 YEN PER DAY!?
SLAMM!
AND HERE I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A PICTURE-PERFECT HOT ROMANTIC VACATION. .ARGH!
I'M HARD.
HEY
WHAT!?

LET'S DO IT.
H-HOLD ON.
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T.
I GUESS I CAN
FEELS GREAT.
SO DO YOU.

S-SO...
..HOW?
MAYBE GETTING HIT ON THE HEAD
MAYBE FROM THE CAR CRASH.
THAT'S ALL IT TOOK?
H-HURRY...
M-MORE...
WELL, NOT EXACTLY.
THAP THAP
SHOOP
YE-
YES.

COOL
GLUUP!

I'M BEAT...
FLOP
IT'S SO SUNNY OUT.
TWO DAYS INSIDE... GEEZ...
IT'S SO COLD.
YOU'RE AWFULLY PERKY!
I CAN BARELY MOVE. HEH HEH
IT REALLY BUMMED ME OUT NOT SEEING YOU FOR A MONTH
YEAH, RIGHT.
I MEAN IT.
I'M BEGINNING TO RECOVER, THOUGH

TO BE CONTINUED

DANCE TILL TOMORROW

ACT TWENTY-FIVE
99 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

Story &Art by
NAOKI YAMAMOTO

Translation by YUJI ONIKI
Lettering & Touch-Up Art by DAN NAKROSIS

THE STORY THUS FAR...

College student Suekichi will inherit 450 million yen [$4.5 million dollars] if he graduates. Unfortunately, he is easily distracted from his studies by a sexy young woman named Aya—even though he suspects she's only in love with his money.

Reunited after a big fight and a very, very long month apart, Suekichi and Aya just blew one million yen of her ex-husband's money on a five-star hotel, gourmet food, and a luxury rental car. After their romantic getaway, it seems that Suekichi is finally ready to acknowledge his feelings for Aya. But now it's time to see how their relationship stands up to the stresses and drudgery of daily life.

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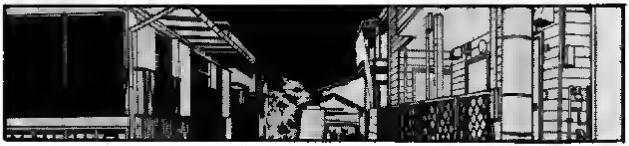
WHAT'S UP?
HOW ABOUT USING THE DOOR FOR ONCE?
SUPPRESSING YOUR JOY AT SEEING ME, HUH?
GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU
FWAK!
Sales Tax is Your Tax *
ELVIS
"THIS HEMOGLOBIN-LIKE SELF-SUPPORTING SYSTEM IN CAPITALIST SOCIETY IS ALSO..." WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
VERY COLLEGIATE
YOUR BREATH STINKS.

*IN 1989, JAPAN INITIATED A 3% SALES TAX ON CONSUMER GOODS

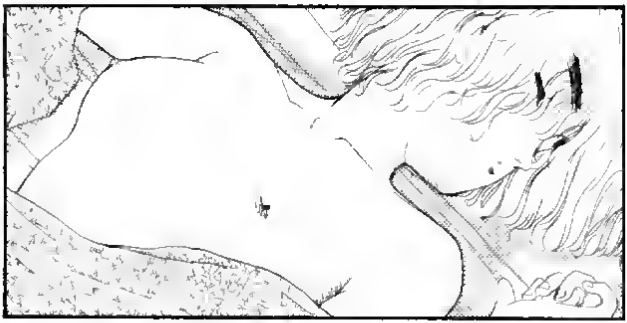
WENT ON A DRINKING BINGE
WITH THE OTHER WOMEN FROM THE DAY-CARE CENTER?
YEAH, RIGHT
YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW?
NO, NOT REALLY.
I-I CAN'T RIGHT NOW. IF I DON'T FINISH THIS BY TOMORROW MORNING
I KNOW IT'S FOR OUR READERS, BUT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH--
WHAT'D YOU THINK I WAS DOING?
I WONDER IF YOU'LL CRY AFTER I'M DEAD AND GONE
--sh
NIPPLE-LESS MANNEQUIN
I'M GONNA TAKE A BATH.
YOU SHOULDN'T IN THAT CONDITION YOU'LL HAVE A HEART ATTACK.
GO AND TAKE YOUR BATH ALREADY

TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
Sales Tax
I KNEW IT...
GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!
FSSSSHH
GUESS I FAINTED.
NO DUH!
FWUMP!

PULP



TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK
YAWWN!
:SIGH:



....!
SHE STILL ALIVE?
....

FEEL HOW FAST MY HEART IS BEATING
WELL... A HOT BATH AFTER DRINKING SO MUCH...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
I-I HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY REPORT
LATER.
YOU JUST PASSED OUT.
DON'T WORRY. I FEEL FINE NOW.
N-NO-- I CAN'T, HIBINO

AH!

THUMP!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR REPORT?
SO, ONCE AGAIN
ACTUALLY TWICE
JUST NEED TO REST A LI'L BIT.

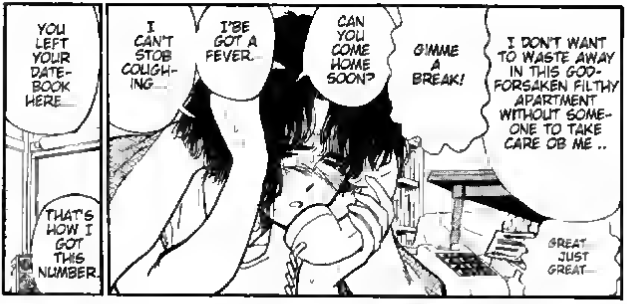
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!
FWAK!
QUIT THAT.

DAMN!

I TOLD YOU NOT TO FALL ASLEEP!
ELVIS
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE--

TMP! TMP! TMP! TMP! TMP! TMP!
AHHH
I'M ALMOST DONE
IT'S PRACTICALLY ILLEGIBLE
GIVE IT UP, DUDE
LEMME SEE, LEMME SEE
HEY
HUH?
AND WHERE WERE YOU WRITING THIS REPORT?
ON MY FUTON...
WITH WHO?
EXCUSE ME...
IS THERE A SUEKICHI TERAYAMA HERE?

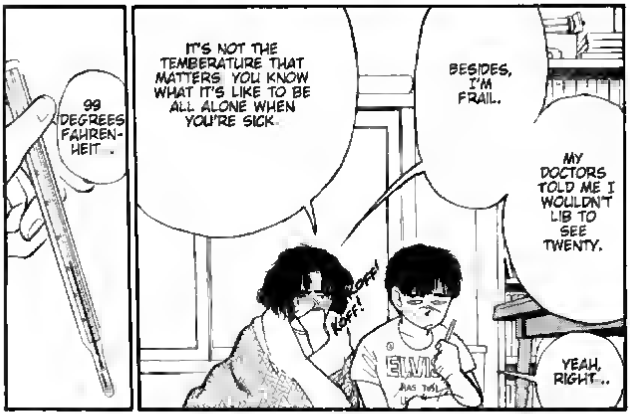
THERE'S AN EMERGENCY IN YOUR FAMILY...


YOU LEFT YOUR DATE-BOOK HERE...
THAT'S HOW I GOT THIS NUMBER...
I CAN'T STOB COUGH-ING...
I'BE GOT A FEVER...
CAN YOU COME HOME SOON?
GIMME A BREAK!
I DON'T WANT TO WASTE AWAY IN THIS GOD-FORSAKEN FILTHY APARTMENT WITHOUT SOME-ONE TO TAKE CARE OB ME ..
GREAT JUST GREAT...

DON'T YOU GET IT!? I HAVE TO TURN THIS REPORT IN TODAY OR I'M IN DEEP...
SO GETTING COLLEGE CREDIT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY LIFE, HUH, SUEKICHI?
ELVIS HAS JUST LEFT THE BUILDING

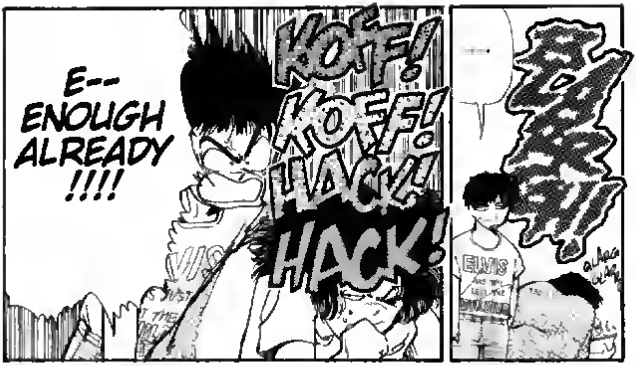
OH... M-MY HEAD IS SPINNING
THE VIRUS MUST BE INFECTING MY BRAIN
I CAN SEE FLOWER GARDENS FAR OFF IN THE DISTANCE...
GOODBYE, SUEKICHI IT WAS SHORT BUT FUN.

WHUD
MAKING "WHUD" SOUND EFFECTS OVER THE PHONE...
BUILDING


99 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT..
IT'S NOT THE TEMBERATURE THAT MATTERS YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ALL ALONE WHEN YOU'RE SICK.
BESIDES, I'M FRAIL..
MY DOCTORS TOLD ME I WOULDN'T LIB TO SEE TWENTY.
KOFF!
KOFF!
YEAH, RIGHT...

DON'T I DESERVE A LIDDLE SYMBATHY?
NOW I WON'T GET ANY CREDIT FOR "ORIGINS OF ECONOMICS."
ARE YOU GOING TO SCOLD ME?
WHAT'S THE POINT OF SCOLDING SOMEONE WHO'S SICK?
YOU'RE NOT MAD?
NO, I'M NOT MAD!!!!
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GONNA SCOLD ME

NEW SERIES!! (NOT REALLY) SELFISH AYA EPISODE 1


E-- ENOUGH ALREADY !!!!
KOFF! KOFF! HACK! HACK!
ELVIS

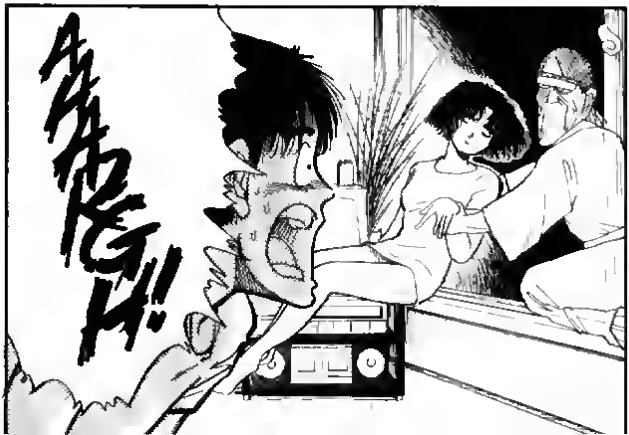
COME LIE DOWN NEXT TO ME
I-I'LL BE LATE FOR WORK.
HACK! HACK! HACK!
ELVIS

YOU'RE JUST LIKE A MOTHER HEN.
JUST SHUT UP AND GO TO SLEEP

LET'S TALK
ABOUT WHAT?
ABOUT HOW WE FIRST MET.. OR HOW FUN IT WAS THAT TIME AT THE OCEAN .OR WHEN WE WENT ON A DATE AT THE TAMA RIVER.
YOU'RE BEING WEIRD AYA.
ELVIS

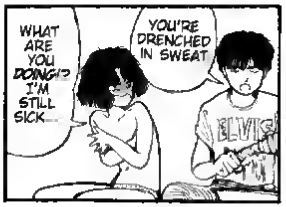
GOOD-BYE-E-E
AYA!!
JUST BE-CAUSE
BECAUSE WHAT? HEY, HOLD ON THERE
THAT'S BECAUSE.. THIS IS, GOODBYE
W-WHAT!? WHY!?

HUH?
A DREAM.
WHOA!


AHHH!!

HUH?
SHAKE!
ANOTHER DREAM...
HM?
DON'T...
PLEASE DON'T GO...
WHAT?
HEY... DID I TALK IN MY SLEEP?
OFF AND ON
ELVIS HAS JUST LEFT THE BUILDING

HEY!


WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? I'M STILL SICK...
YOU'RE DRENCHED IN SWEAT

FEELS NICE
YOUR FEVER SEEMS TO HAVE GONE DOWN

YOU'RE SO KIND, SUEKICHI
DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE

YEAH, RIGHT I KNOW YOU FEEL FOR ME.
GIMME A BREAK.

I CAUGHD YOUR COLD..
103 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT..
BY HEAD IS SPINNING
I TOLD YOU..
I CAN'T HEAR YOU! SPEAK UP!
HUH? WHAT?
DON'T CALL ME AT WORK JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A LITTLE UNDER THE WEATHER. I'M A WORKING GIRL!
NOT SOME SPOILED STUDENT!
YOU IDIOT ALL YOU NEED IS SOME REST
KOFF! KOFF! KOFF!
HUGG!
Hack! Hack! Hack